OSPREY MILITARY
MEN-AT-ARMS SERIES 90

NAPOLEON'S GERMAN ALLIES (3): SAXONY 1806-15

OTTO VON PIVKA, RICHARD HOOK

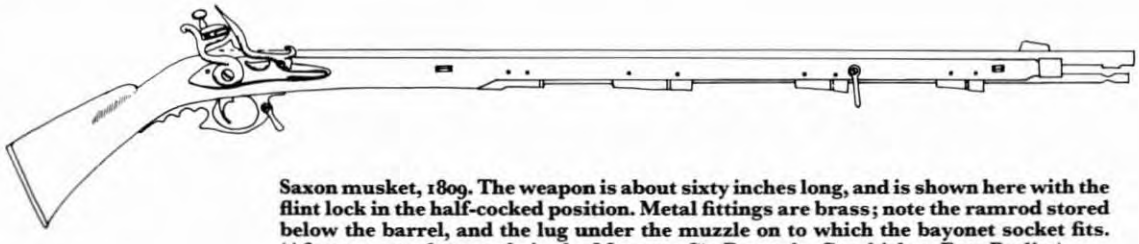
1806-1809

Following the abdication of the Austrian Emperor Franz II from the office of Emperor of the Holy Roman Empire of German Nations on 6 August 1806, King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia sought to form a defensive coalition (the North German Alliance) with Saxony and the Electorate of Hessen-Kassel to counter Napoleon's ruthless expansionism in western Europe. Self-interest was of course the main motivation. In 1803 France had given the Electorate of Hanover to Prussia (see my book *The King's German Legion* in this series) and rumour now had it that Napoleon had promised to give Hanover back to England in return for a peace treaty. (Prussia, of course, had not been consulted about this development.) Another of Napoleon's plans was the formation of the Confederation of the Rhine (see my books *Napoleon's German Allies (1): Westphalia and Kleve-Berg* and *(2): Nassau and Oldenburg*) and he also intended to give Russia that slice of unfortunate Poland which Prussia had wrested for herself in 1795 (see my book *Napoleon's Polish Troops*).

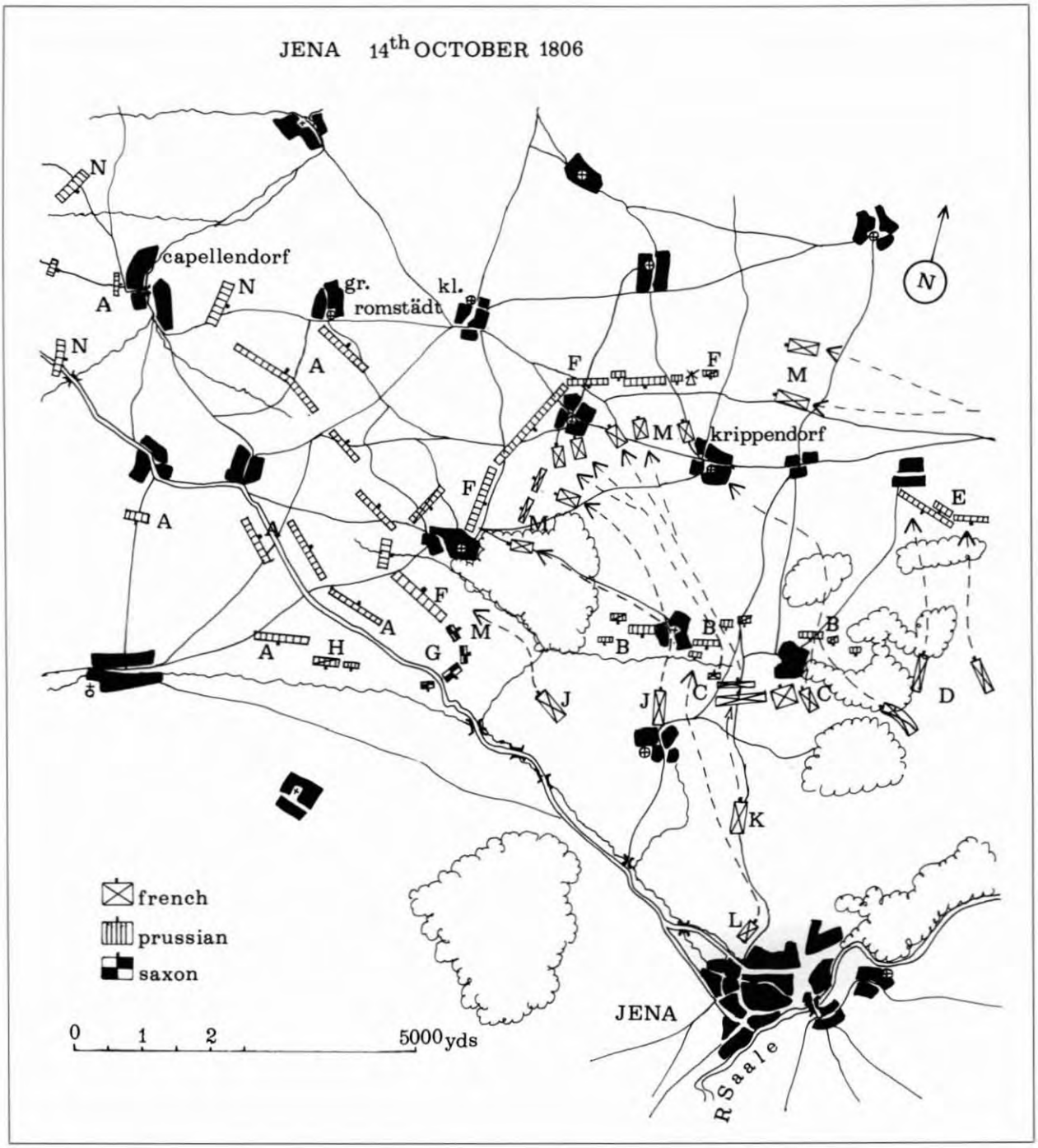
Friedrich Wilhelm of Prussia, usually quite the most docile and indecisive of monarchs, thus found himself forced into a 'war or dishonour' situation; thinking that his army was still the magnificent machine that his forefather Frederick the Great had made it in the Seven Years' War of 1756–1764, he formed an alliance with the Elector of Saxony (Friedrich August) and stood against Napoleon in 1806 supported by promises of money from England and troops from Russia.

In the twin battles of Jena and Auerstädt (14 October 1806) the myth of Prussian military invincibility crumbled before the youthful élan of the French army, and the Saxon contingent, although acquitting itself with distinction, was dragged into the defeat and returned home with its morale severely diminished. In fact, 170,000 French had beaten 100,000 Prussians and 20,000 Saxons, and what was so remarkable was not that the Prussians were defeated but rather the total and rapid disintegration of that army in the days following their initial reverses in the major battles. As an example of the combat value of the Saxon army in 1806 this report of the last stages of the battle of Jena (14 October) by the Prussian Oberst von Höpfner quoted from *Der Krieg 1806–1807* will serve to enlighten us:

'Those (Prussian) troops withdrawing on Weimar (those of the centre and right wing) were in full flight; only one unit remained steady—it was the Saxon Grenadier Battalion Winkel with whom the Prince (Hohenlohe) was and who commanded it personally for a time. In this terrible moment, when defeat and confusion was everywhere, this battalion stood like a rock. Surrounded by fleeing allies

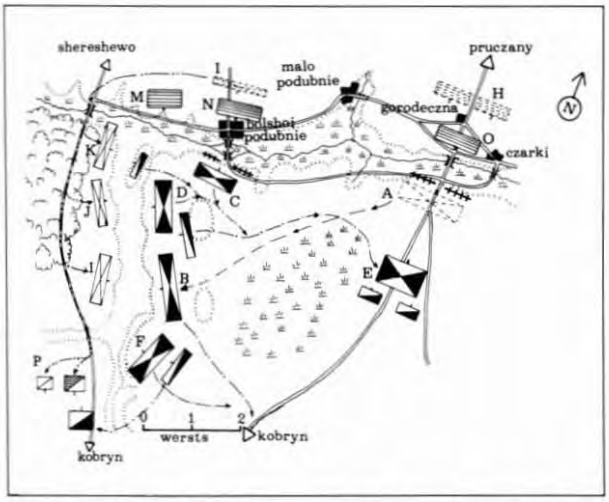


Saxon musket, 1809. The weapon is about sixty inches long, and is shown here with the flint lock in the half-cocked position. Metal fittings are brass; note the ramrod stored below the barrel, and the lug under the muzzle on to which the bayonet socket fits. (After an actual example in the Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, East Berlin.)



Battle of Jena, 14 October 1806: **A = Prussian-Saxon forces in the night 13/14 October. B = Tauenzien, early on 14 October. C = Lannes' attack on the morning of the 14th. D = Soult's advance. E = Holtzendorff fighting Soult. F = Hohenlohe's advance. G = Saxons. H = Colonel Boguslawski's position. J = Augereau's advance. K = Imperial Guard (Lefebvre). L = Ney. M = French advance against Hohenlohe. N = General von Rüchel's Corps.**

who had thrown away their weapons and who no longer heeded their officers' commands, continuously attacked by the enemy, these men withdrew in full control, with regular pace and with band playing. The battalion had formed an open square and whenever the enemy came too close they halted to give battle. Neither the French cavalry, constantly charging them, or the relentless



***Battle of Podubnie (Gorodeczna). 11–12 August 1812:* Russians: A-B = Markow; C-D-E = Kamenski; F-G = Lambert. Allies: H = Schwarzenberg, 11 August; I = Reynier, 11 and 12 August; J = Lecoq's division; K = Lilienberg's brigade; L = Funck's division; M = Hessen-Homberg's division; N = Siegenthal's division; O = Trautenberg's division and Frimont's division; P = Austrian and Saxon cavalry.**

fire of the *tirailleurs* could shake them. As soon as they had won themselves a respite, they beat "columns of platoons" and marched off with band playing as if they had been on the parade ground. Whenever the enemy came too close the drums rolled and the battalion stood ready to receive them again.'

Following these lightning victories Napoleon, recognizing the martial value of the Saxon army, immediately wooed the Elector and concluded a military alliance with him. In return for political and military support, the Electorate was to be elevated to a kingdom and given nominal suzerainty over the Grand Duchy of Warsaw, thus reviving, if in name only, an ancient historic connection.

Until the battle of Leipzig in October 1813, the Saxons were to fight and die in the service of a man who regarded them at best as efficient but expendable cannon fodder; and their ruler, King Friedrich August of Saxony, was to lose over half his state in 1814 to Prussia, in repayment for his faithful support for the Corsican dictator.

On 11 December 1806 the Elector of Saxony became king and promised to support France with a military contingent of 20,000 men. For the immediate campaign against Prussia and Russia, however, only 6,000 were required. This apparently heartless betrayal of his ally Prussia must be explained: between Prussia and Saxony there had existed a mutual suspicion and hostility since before the Seven Years' War, and in 1756 this culminated in a Prussian invasion of Saxony and an attempt to make the Saxon army serve as part of the Prussian military machine. The hatred between the states was so great that almost all Saxon soldiers (and officers) deserted from their regiments and made their way to Austria or France, where they re-enlisted in Saxon emigré regiments and fought against Prussia for the duration of the war. The Prussian-Saxon alliance of 1806 must thus be seen as a brittle expedient rather than a genuine act of friendship.

Saxon Line Infantry Regt., 1806

Regimental staff: 1 Oberst (colonel), 1 Oberstlieutenant (lieutenant-colonel), 2 Majors (majors), 1 Regiments-Quartiermeister (regimental quartermaster), 2 Adjutanten (adjutants), 1 Auditeur (auditor), 1 Regimentsfeldscheer (regimental surgeon), 1 Stabs-Felscheer (battalion surgeon), 1 Profoss (provost).

10 companies (2 grenadier and 8 musketeer) totalling: 7 Kapitäns [senior captains, also called 'Hauptleute' (infantry) or 'Rittmeister' (cavalry)], 3 Stabs-Kapitäns (junior captains), 10 Premierlieutenants, 12 Souslieutenants, 8 Fähnrichs (ensigns), 30 Sergeanten (sergeants), 10 Fouriers (company quartermasters), 10 Feldscheers (company surgeons), 80 Korporals (corporals), 30 Tambours (drummers), 20 Pfeifers (fifers), 20 Zimmerleute (pioneers), 300 Grenadiers, 1,200 Musketiers.

Grand total 1,753 all ranks

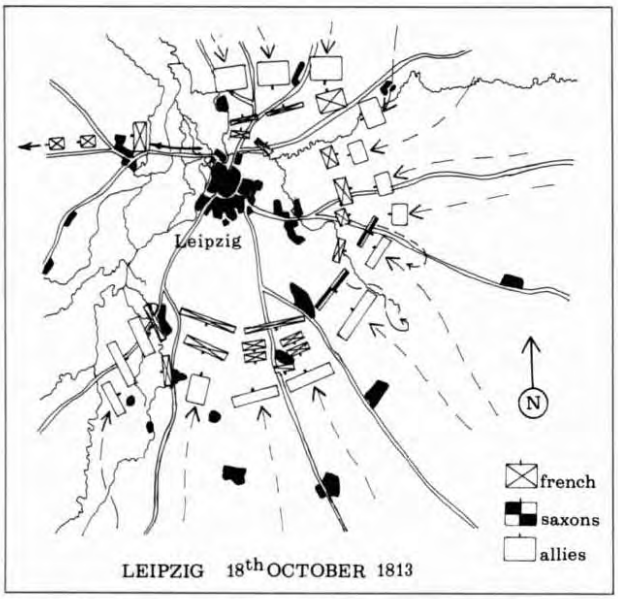
The 1807 Campaign against Prussia and Russia

The Saxon contingent with the French army was as follows:

Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Süssmilch' (grenadiers of the regiments 'Prinz Clemens' and 'von Oebschelwitz')

Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Cerrini' (grenadiers of the regiments 'von Sänger' and 'von Low')

Infantry Regiments 'Prinz Anton' (two battalions),



Battle of Leipzig, 16–18 October 1813. **This battle was the culmination of the Allies' manoeuvring during the 1813 campaign, during which they had been kept apart from each other by Napoleon's cunning thrusts. His lack of cavalry and the growing disaffection of his German vassal contingents gradually forced him on to the defensive, however; he abandoned the line of the Elbe to fall back on Leipzig, where he was brought to bay with his back against the River Pleisse after four preliminary battles on 16 October (Möckern—where Marmont and the VI Corps lost to Blücher and York; Wachau—Napoleon and Wittgenstein—a draw; Connewitz—Poniatowsky's VIII Corps against the Austrians under Merveldt; and Lindenau, where Bertrand's IV Corps fought the Austrians under Giulay). The French were pressed back on Leipzig where on the 18th they lost the major battle and fled west over the Pleisse and Elster Rivers. The Saxons were in the east, and went over to the Allies on the afternoon of that day.**

'von Sänger' (two battalions), 'Prinz Maximilian' (2nd Battalion), 'von Bevilaqua' (1st Battalion)

König Kürassiers (the old Kürfurst Kürassiers)—4 squadrons

'Prinz Johann' Chevauxlegers—90 men

'von Polenz' Chevauxlegers—60 men

One artillery detachment (two batteries)—16 guns.

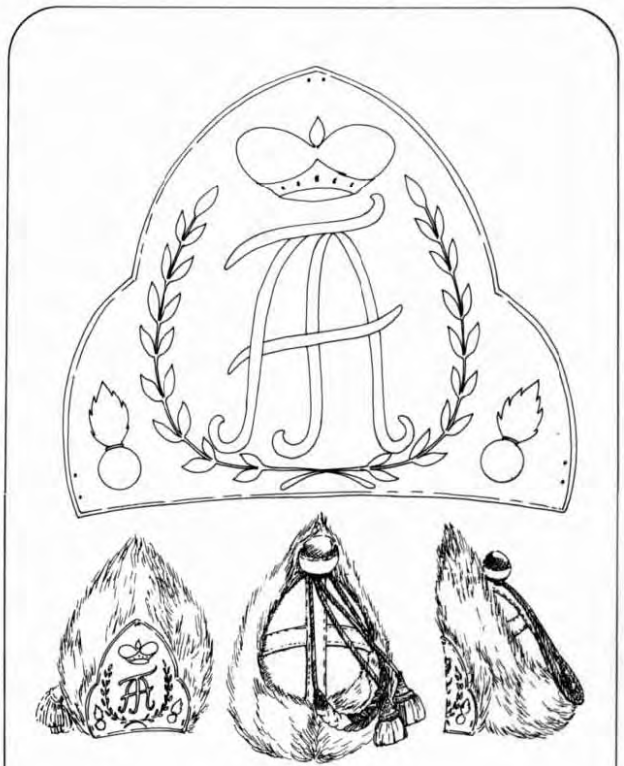
This force became the 1st Division of Lefebvre's Corps on 10 March 1807; it was divided into two brigades under Major-Generals von Oebschelwitz and von Glaffey. They served at the siege of Danzig (which capitulated on 27 May 1807), and on 10 June they became the 3rd Division of Lannes' Corps and fought at Heilsberg. Here the König Kürassiers saved the *72eme de Ligne* from annihilation at Russian hands. On 14 June 1807 the Saxons fought in the battle of Friedland, where the König Kürassiers again distinguished themselves and were later rewarded with the title 'Leib-Kürassier-Garde'. After the Peace of Tilsit the Saxons returned home.

The 1809 Campaign

As a result of Austria's preparations for war on France, Saxony was required to produce her 20,000-strong contingent, which was taken over by Marshal Bernadotte, Prince of Ponte-Corvo, at Dresden on 22 March 1809. The two Saxon divisions formed the IX Corps of Napoleon's army, and in fact totalled some 16,000 men:

Order of Battle of the IX Corps, April 1809:

Commander: Marshal Bernadotte; *Chief of staff;* Brigade-General Gerard; *Commander of Engineers;* Bataillons-Chef Giradin; *Commander of the Artillery;* Brigade-General Mossel.



Detail of bearskin for other ranks, Saxon Leib-Grenadier-Garde and Line Grenadiers, 1789–1806. The brass front plate shows the Elector's cypher 'FA' under an electoral cap. The back cloth is in the regimental facing colour, the cross and cords white, the pompon showed the facing colour over white. (After a contemporary colour plate by C. A. Hess.)

1st Division

Commander: Generallieutenant von Zeschwitz

Chief of staff: Oberst von Gersdorff

1st Brigade (Generalmajor von Hartitzsch): 'Leib-Grenadier-Garde' (1 bn.); Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Bose' (Regiments 'Prinz Friedrich' and 'von Burgsdorf'); Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Hake' (Regiments 'Prinz Clemens' and 'von Oebschelwitz'); Regiment 'König' (2 bns.); Regiment 'von Dyherrn' (1 bn.)

2nd Brigade (Generalmajor von Boxberg): Regiments 'Prinz Maximilian', 'Prinz Anton' and 'Prinz Friedrich' (2 bns. each)

Cavalry Brigade (Generalmajor von Gutschmidt): Garde du Corps (2 sqns.); Karabiniers (2 sqns.); 'Prinz Clemens' Chevauxlegers (4 sqns.); 'Prinz Albrecht' Chevauxlegers (1 sqn.); Husaren (3 sqns.)

Artillery Two batteries each of six guns.

2nd Division

Commander: Generallieutenant von Polenz

Chief of staff: Oberst von Langenau

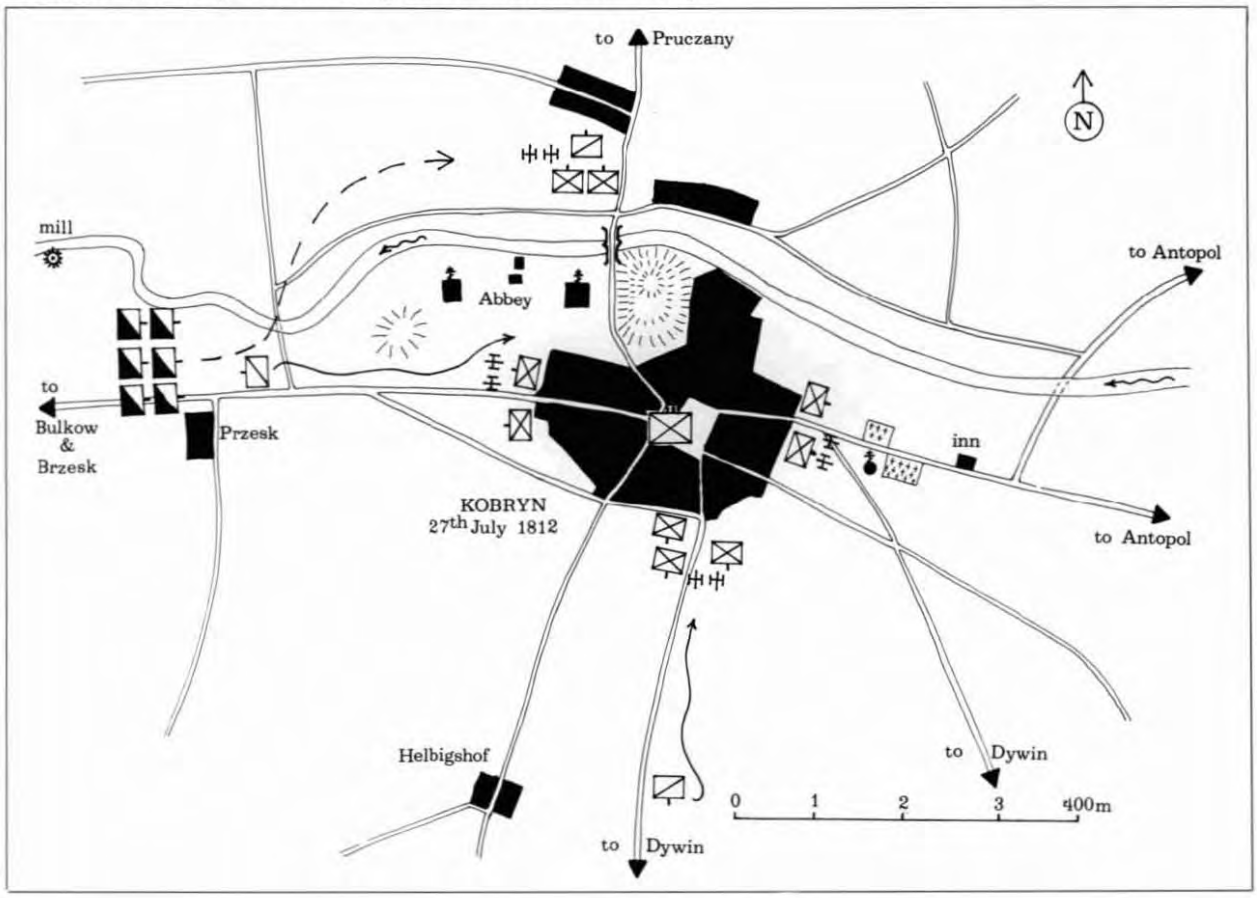
1st Brigade (Generalmajor von Lecoq): Regiments 'Prinz Clemens', 'von Low' and 'von Cerrini' (2 bns. each)

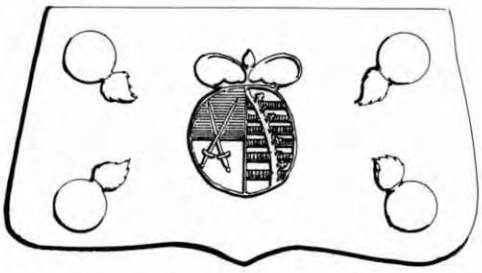
2nd Brigade (Generalmajor von Zeschau): Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Radeloff' (Regiments 'Prinz Anton' and 'Niesemeuschel'); Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Winkelmann' (Regiments 'von Low' and 'von Cerrini'); Regiment 'von Niesemeuschel' (2 bns.); Regiment 'von Oebschelwitz' (1 bn.)

Cavalry Brigade (Generalmajor von Feilitzsch): 'Leib-Kürassier-Garde' (4 sqns.); 'Prinz Johann' Chevauxlegers (4 sqns.)

Artillery Two batteries each of six guns.

Battle of Kobryn, 27 July 1812. **It was here that von Klengel's isolated brigade was overwhelmed by vastly superior Russian forces. Having only three squadrons of cavalry, the Saxons' intelligence gathering was not adequate to warn of the impending disaster. At the left can be seen the initial Russian cavalry attack; the Russian main body came up from west and south. The Saxon last stand was on the old earthworks by the abbey.**



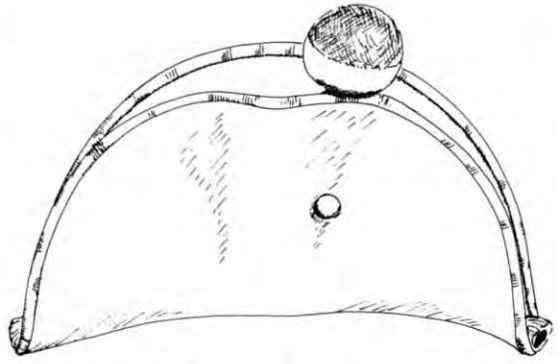


Grenadier's cartridge pouch, 1806–1810. The central crest is of Saxony-Poland and expresses a historic connection. Musketeers wore the same central device but no corner grenades.

Corps Reserve

One artillery battery of six guns, artillery train, artillery park, field hospital and ration train.

On 9 April 1809 Austria declared war on France, and on 16 April the IX Corps marched out of Saxony via Regensburg (Ratisbon) to Linz on the Danube where it arrived on 17 May and joined up with the Württembergers of Marshal Vandamme's VIII Corps, who were fighting off an attack by General Feldmarschall Colowrat and his Austrians. The Württemberg-Saxon cavalry clashed with Austrian cavalry at Dornach that day, and captured four guns and several hundred prisoners. Next day the VIII Corps moved off to Vienna and left the Saxons in possession of Linz and the fortified position of the Pöstlingsberg. On 8 May



Musketeer private's hat, 1806–1810. Compared with the officers' and the cavalry hats, this bicorn was extremely small, and was copied from the Prussian equivalent. The edging was white, the pompon in the facing colour over white, the corner tassels crimson within white.

the sharpshooters of the various Saxon infantry regiments were concentrated officially into two battalions each of four companies of 150 men. These later became the Light Infantry of the army.

On 31 May the Saxons moved off to Vienna, where they arrived on 4 June and remained until the end of the month. Bernadotte used this time to reorganize the infantry, reducing the regiments from two battalions each into one and sending the oldest and least suitable officers and NCOs back to Saxony to be used to train new recruits.

The Reorganized IX Corps Infantry, June 1809, at St Pölten (Vienna):

1st Division

Generallieutenant von Zeschwitz

1st Brigade (Generalmajor von Hartitzsch): 'Leib-Grenadier-Garde' (1 bn.); Grenadier-Bataillons 'von Bose', 'von Hake', 'von Radeloff'* and 'von Winkelmann'*; Schützen-Bataillon 'von Metzsch'*

2nd Brigade (Generalmajor von Zeschau): Regiments 'König', 'von Niesemeuschel' and 'von Dyherrn'.

2nd Division

Generallieutenant von Polenz

1st Brigade (Generalmajor von Lecoq): Regiments 'Prinz Clemens', 'von Low' and 'von Cerrini'; Schützen-Bataillon 'von Egidy'

2nd Brigade (Oberst von Steindel): Regiments 'Prinz Anton', 'Prinz Maximilian' and 'Prinz Friedrich'.

Having been defeated for the first time in his imperial career by the Austrians at Aspern-Essling on 21 May 1809 Napoleon called up all available forces to avenge this insult. The result was the battle of Wagram (5–6 July 1809) in which the Saxons stormed the Austrian centre at Wagram itself, and lost forty per cent of their strength in the bitter fighting of the first day. That night they slept on the battlefield and renewed their struggle next morning in the area of Aderklaa village, next to the Hessians. By 4pm on 6 July the Austrians acknowledged defeat and withdrew north on Znaim. Saxon losses were 132 officers and 4,103 men dead,

(* = detached to Dupas' French division of the IX Corps)

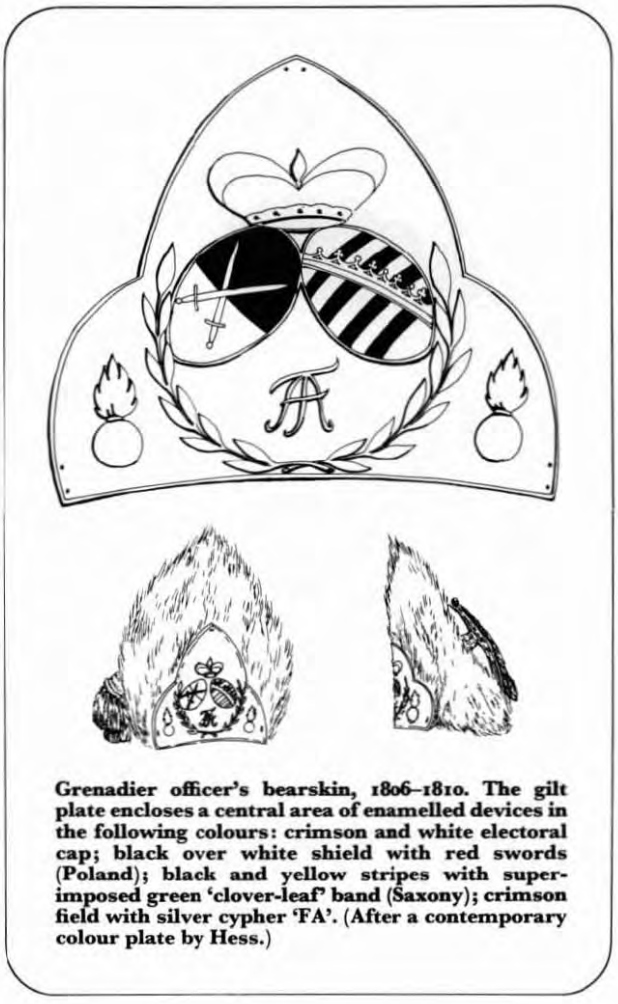
wounded and missing out of a starting strength on 5 July of almost 8,000. Bernadotte published a congratulatory order of the day to the IX Corps on 7 July 1809, for which he was sharply criticized by Napoleon, with whom his relationship was already cool. The fighting ended when the armistice of Znaim was signed on 12 July, and the Saxons returned home on 22 January 1810.

Reorganization, 1810-1812

The events of the campaigns of 1806, 1807 and 1809 had made it plain that extensive reforms were needed if the Saxon army was to function efficiently as part of Napoleon's war machine. King Friedrich August thus instituted a military review committee under Generalmajor von Gersdorf in spring 1810, and within a few weeks they produced an agreed plan which included the following points:

1. A permanent General Headquarters was set up.
2. A general staff was established.
3. The army was to be divided permanently into its war formations of divisions, brigades and regiments.
4. The responsibility for clothing, equipping, feeding and providing training ammunition was removed from the captains who commanded the companies and given to the state.
5. Military legal affairs and courts martial were regularized.
6. Finance and rations were improved.
7. Tactics and drill were simplified (and modelled on the French method).
8. Provision of recruits was now to be by conscription and no longer by enlistment of volunteers—this to raise the 'moral quality' of the soldiers.
9. Selection of officers and NCOs to be made with a bias towards younger men.

These proposals received the royal assent on 7 March 1810, and the army was at once re-formed from its old 'Inspectorates' (two each for the infantry and the cavalry, with the artillery under direct control of the elector) into three divisions, two infantry and one cavalry. Each division had its general staff and there was a further staff for the king as commander-in-chief.

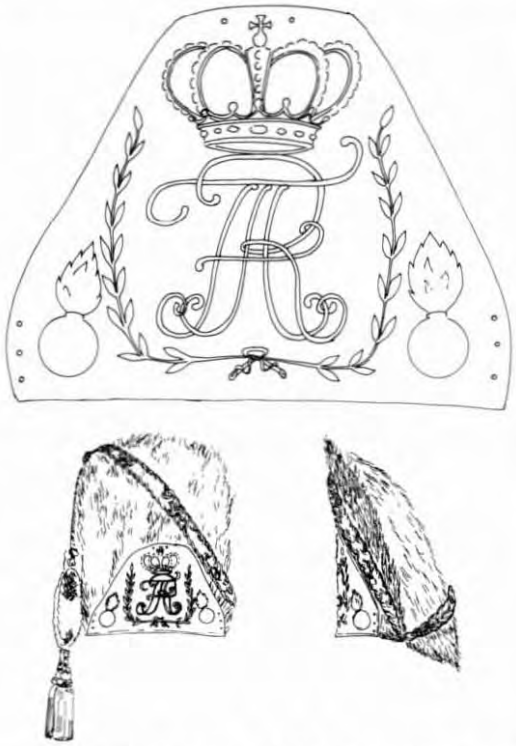


Grenadier officer's bearskin, 1806–1810. The gilt plate encloses a central area of enamelled devices in the following colours: crimson and white electoral cap; black over white shield with red swords (Poland); black and yellow stripes with superimposed green 'clover-leaf' band (Saxony); crimson field with silver cypher 'FA'. (After a contemporary colour plate by Hess.)

The infantry regiments 'Oebschelwitz', 'Cerrini', 'Burgsdorf' and 'Dyherrn', the cavalry regiment 'Karabiniers' and the artillery company of the Royal Household were disbanded, and the men used to reinforce the remaining regiments.

Each infantry division had two brigades each of two regiments, each of two battalions, each of two grenadier and eight musketeer companies. The four grenadier companies of each brigade were concentrated into 'Combined Grenadier Battalions' in peace as well as in war. The two Light Infantry Battalions were expanded into regiments; the 'Jäger-Corps' (formed on 31 August 1809) was retained.

The cavalry division was formed of three heavy, four light and one hussar regiments each of four



Bearskin cap, other ranks, Saxon Garde-Grenadiere, 1815. This item is unusual in that there is no 'calot' or cloth top patch as was the custom at that time. This is taken from an actual example in Strasbourg museum, and it is possible that it is a later reconstruction using an original brass plate. The cords are white.

squadrons, and was organized into three brigades.

The regimental artillery (those pieces attached to individual infantry battalions) was disbanded and the guns concentrated into one regiment of foot artillery of sixteen companies plus an artificer company and a horse artillery brigade of two batteries. An artillery train battalion was raised.

On the administrative side, an *Inspecteur général aux revues* and three *Sous-Inspecteurs* were appointed to ensure that malpractices were kept to a minimum.

Changes in the uniform reflected the influence of Saxony's new ally in that the shako replaced the bicorn, and French-style rank and company badges were introduced. The pigtail and powdered hair were finally abolished. In the tactical field, the old linear infantry formation gave way to the new French system of the column and the protective, advanced swarm of skirmishers. Training was now directed more towards efficient battlefield performance rather than parade-ground precision. New infantry muskets from Suhl were issued to the Light Infantry; the Line used French or Austrian weapons. Bayonets were now longer than before, and new pattern sabres replaced the old. The new muskets were effective up to 200 paces, while artillery could throw solid shot 1,800–2,000 paces, and canister was used up to 400 paces. The use of massed artillery was particularly emphasized.

The cavalry remained least affected by these reforms, and then mainly in the matter of the new uniforms.

On 22 and 23 July 1811, thirteen infantry battalions, five cavalry regiments, three foot artillery and two horse artillery batteries were concentrated at Mühlberg, where they exercised as brigades in the new regulations.

Russia, 1812

By spring 1811 relations between the French dictator and the Tsar had deteriorated to such an extent that Napoleon issued orders to all his vassal states to prepare to mobilize their armies for a punitive expedition against Russia. The cause of this breach was the attempt by Napoleon to exclude all British goods from Europe by a blockade (the Continental System as defined in the Berlin Decrees of 1806). As Britain then truly ruled the global waves this meant an almost total crippling of trade, and Tsar Alexander, never a convinced ally of France, turned a blind eye to continued Russian imports of British goods via the Baltic ports. This enraged Napoleon so much that he embarked on the campaign that was to destroy half a million men and to achieve nothing but his own downfall.

The Saxon contingent was mobilized on 15 February 1812 in two infantry divisions as the VII Corps of the Grande Armée, and in March the French General Reynier assumed command over it.

Saxon Order of Battle, 1812, as VII Corps of the Grande Armée:
Commander: General Reynier; *Senior Saxon General:* Generallieutenant Edler von Lecoq; *Chief of staff:*

Saxon Line Infantry Regt., 1810

Regimental staff: 1 Oberst, 1 Oberstlieutenant, 2 Majors, 2 Aerzte (doctors), 1 Regiments-Quartiermeister, 1 Ober-Auditeur, 1 Ober-Regiments-Chirurgus (senior surgeon), 2 Fahnenjunker (ensigns), 1 Stabsfourier, 1 Stabs-Chirurgus, 1 Regiments-Tambour (regimental drum major), 1 Bataillons-Tambour (battalion drum major), 8 Hautboisten 1. Klasse (first class musicians), 12 Hautboisten 2. Klasse, 1 Büchsenmacher (armourer), 1 Büchsenschäfter (musket woodworker), 1 Profoss, 1 Profoss-Knecht (provost's lad).

8 musketeer and 2 grenadier companies totalling: 6 Kapitäns 1. Klasse, 4 Kapitäns 2. Klasse, 10 Premierlieutenants, 20 Souslieutenants, 10 Feldwebel (sergeant-majors), 20 Sergeants, 10 Fouriere, 5 Chirugen, 100 Korporals, 6 Grenadier-Tambours, 24 Musketier-Tambours, 4 Grenadier-Zimmerleute, 16 Musketier-Zimmerleute, 360 Grenadiere, 1,440 Musketiere.

Grand Total, 2,073 all ranks.

Bearskin cap, officer, Saxon Leib-Grenadier-Garde, 1810–1815. The gilt plate shows the black, yellow and green Saxon crest over a silver-edged crimson field bearing 'FAR' in silver. The cords are silver. (After Sauerweid's contemporary watercolour.)

Oberst von Langenau; *Chief of Logistics:* Major von Ryssel; *Commander of the Artillery:* Oberstlieutenant von Hoyes; *Commander of the Engineers:* Hauptmann Damm

21st Division

Generallieutenant Edler von Lecoq

1st Brigade (Generalmajor von Steindel):

Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Liebenau' (Regiments 'Prinz Friedrich' and 'Prinz Clemens')

Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Friedrich'—2 battalions and four 4pdr. regimental guns

Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Clemens'—2 battalions and four 4pdr. regimental guns

2nd Brigade (Generalmajor von Nostitz):

Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Anton'—2 battalions and four 4pdr. regimental guns

1st Light Infantry Regiment—2 battalions

4th Foot Artillery Battery—four 6pdr. cannon, two 8pdr. howitzers

Divisional Artillery Park and sapper company.

22nd Division

Generallieutenant von Gutschmidt

1st Brigade (Generalmajor von Kleugel):

Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Brause' (Regiments 'König' and 'von Niesemeuschel')

Infantry Regiment 'König'—2 battalions and four 4pdr. regimental guns

Infantry Regiment 'von Niesemeuschel'—2 battalions and four 4pdr. regimental guns

2nd Brigade (Generalmajor von Sahr):

Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Anger' (Regiments 'Prinz Anton' and 'von Low')

Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Spiegel' (Regiments 'Prinz Maximilian' and 'von Rechten')

2nd Light Infantry Regiment—2 battalions

3rd Foot Artillery Battery—four 6pdr. cannon and two 8pdr. howitzers

Divisional Artillery Park and sapper company.

23rd Light Cavalry Brigade (Generalmajor von Gablenz):

'Prinz Clemens' Ulans—4 squadrons

'von Polenz' Chevauxlegers—4 squadrons

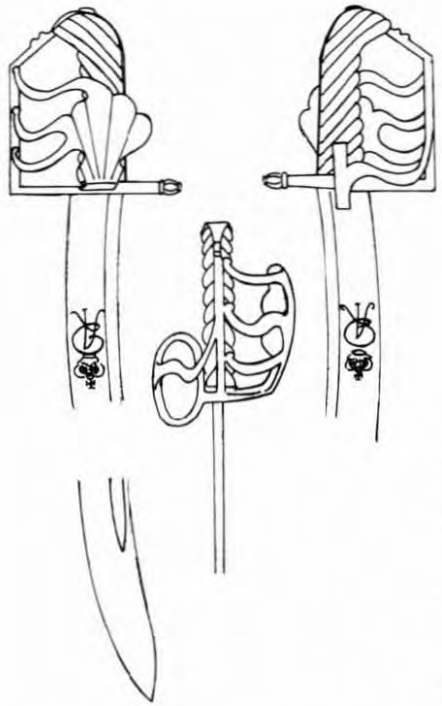
Hussars—5 squadrons

Heavy Cavalry Brigade (Generallieutenant von Thielmann):

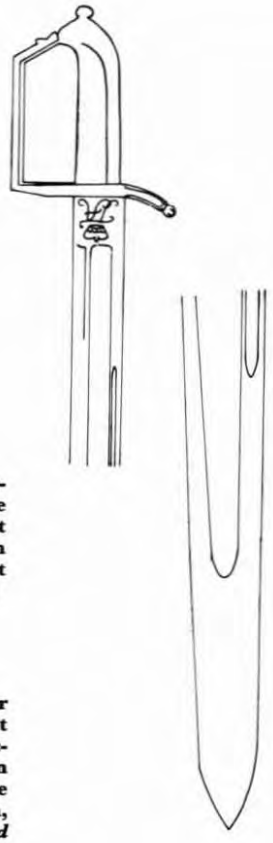
Garde du Corps—4 squadrons

Kürassier-Regiment 'von Zastrow'—4 squadrons

'Prinz Albrecht' Chevauxlegers—4 squadrons



Saxon infantry sabre, pre-1806. The grip is brass, the blade 58·7cm long, 2·9cm wide; total length 70cm, weight ·76kg. (Source, *Hieb und Stichwaffen*)



Right:
Saxon infantry sabre, 1806. The simpler brass hilt reflects the gradual move towards functional weapons without excessive ornamentation. Blade 59cm × 2·8cm; total length 72cm, weight ·62kg. (Source, *Hieb und Stichwaffen*.)

Far right:
***Pallasch* of Saxon Kürassiers (other ranks), 1806. The brass basket hilt bears the cypher 'FA' under the electoral cap; the sheath is in brown leather; brass tip, steel rings. Blade 93·5cm × 3·3cm, total length 109·5cm, weight 1·27kg. (Source, *Hieb und Stichwaffen*.)**

2nd Horse Artillery Battery—four 6pdr. cannon and two 8pdr. howitzers.

Corps Artillery Reserve

1st Horse Artillery Battery	each of four 6pdr.
1st Foot Artillery Battery	cannon and two
2nd Foot Artillery Battery	8pdr. howitzers

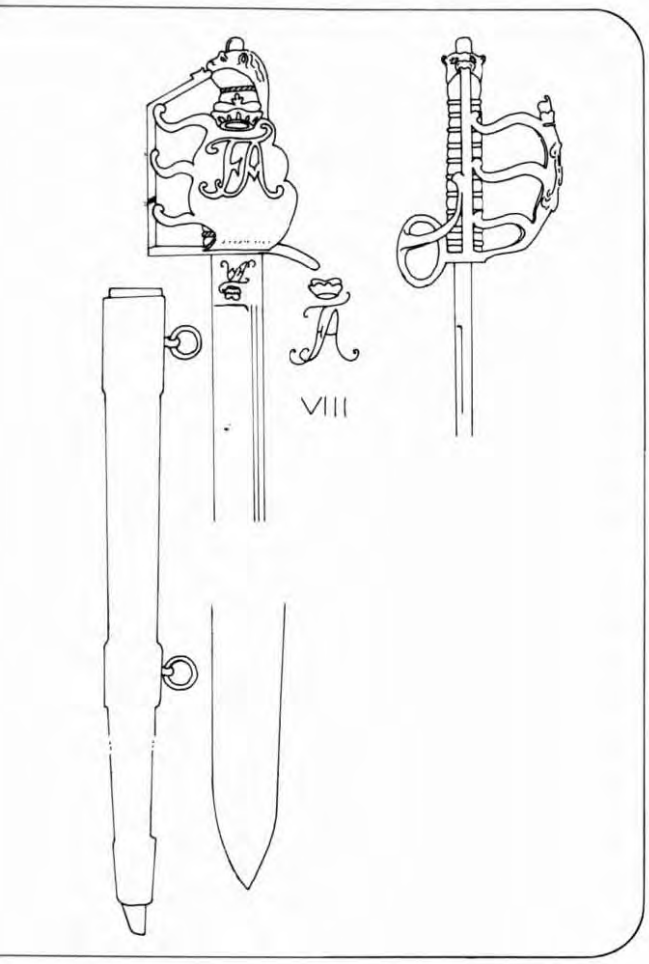
Artillery Park
Pontoon train

On 9 April the corps reached Kalisch, where the Saxon Kürassier Brigade under General von Thielmann, together with Hiller's horse artillery battery, was detached as the 20th Heavy Cavalry Brigade, and the Chevauxlegers Regiment 'Prinz Albrecht' was detached to join two Bavarian Chevauxlegers regiments as the 17th Light Cavalry Brigade. The Saxon infantry regiments 'von Rechten' and 'von Low' were detached as garrison troops in the fortresses of Danzig and Glogau respectively.

After these reductions the VII Corps numbered 18 battalions, 16 squadrons, 5 batteries of artillery each of 6 guns (including Roth's horse artillery battery) and 20 regimental pieces. The lack of cavalry and the subsequent lack of adequate reconnaissance was to prove nearly disastrous for the Saxons later in the campaign.

The VII Corps now joined the V (Poles under Poniatowski) and the VIII Corps (Westfalians under Vandamme) as the right wing of the Grande Armée, under Napoleon's younger brother King Jerome of Westfalia, near Lublin on the Vistula. On the extreme southern flank was the Austrian Corps (35,000 men) under Prince Schwarzenberg. At the end of May the allies were opposed by Prince Bagration with eight Russian divisions and 200 guns on the right bank of the Bug from Tarnopol to Brest-Litowsk.

Napoleon invaded Russia with the main body of his army on 28 June 1812 and the Saxons advanced



to Kleck (Lithuania), which they reached on 15 July, while the Austrians to their right were at Pruszana on the 20th. Reynier now ordered the two corps to exchange their positions, and the Saxons marched to Pruszana and Kobryn. Klengel's brigade was detailed to garrison Kobryn, a little wooden town, and early on 27 July his 2,400 men, with eight 4pdr. regimental guns and three squadrons of Ulans, were surprised by General Tormassow with 12,000 men. The Saxons fought until their ammunition was exhausted and the town was in flames before being forced to surrender. Tormassow was so impressed by their gallant conduct that he permitted the captured officers to retain their swords. Saxon casualties were 108 dead and 178 wounded, the rest captured. Russian losses were about 600 dead and wounded. Had the Saxons had more cavalry, a better reconnaissance would have revealed the Russian force in time for the brigade to withdraw intact.

Undismayed by this disaster, Reynier and Schwarzenberg united their forces and moved against an 8,000-strong Russian force with twelve guns under General Lambert at Pruszana, and attacked them on 10 August. Lambert fell back on Kobryn, but stood behind a boggy stream at Gorodeczno on 11 August. The allies came up, found the crossing points covered by artillery, and set about outflanking Lambert that night. They found an unguarded crossing to the Russian left, and the 2nd Battalion, 1st Light Infantry Regiment secured it. By 9am on 12 August a considerable Saxon force had been developed across the stream and in the rear of the Russian flank. To counter this, Lambert had to change front hastily. There now followed a battle between 30,000 Russians (reinforcements had arrived) and 15,000 Saxons, with the Austrians pressing forward against the guarded crossings to the north. By 7pm the Austrians had crossed the river in the north and had also sent a division to support the Saxons in their day-long battle, and Lambert began to withdraw towards Kobryn. Saxon losses were 175 men and 90 horses dead, 688 men and 32 horses wounded, 68 men captured or missing. The allies pursued the Russians and occupied Kobryn on 13 August; Tormassow evacuated Volhynia and withdrew past Dywin.

The Saxon cavalry was now so weak that infantry units were used for outpost duty, and on 24 August they had a successful clash at Luboml with the ubiquitous Russian cossacks. In late August–early September the Saxons remained in the area Kuszelin-Macowice-Toczyn, with the Austrians to their left at Golowi and Kolki with a 5,000-man detachment at Pinsk. Constant outpost bickering with the numerically superior Russians further reduced the Saxon cavalry strength. Allied strength here along the River Styr was now 40,000 men, but the opposing Russians had 65,000, as Tschitschagoff's Army of Moldavia had joined Tormassow. This reinforcement was made possible by the conclusion of a Russo-Turkish peace treaty which released the Moldavian army for duties agains Napoleon.

On 25 September the Russians attacked and drove back a Polish brigade under General Kosinski at Pawlowice; as their flank was now turned, the Austrians and Saxons fell back over the

Officer's gorget, 1806. The gilt gorget had a crimson velvet centrepiece framed in silver and carrying the silver cypher 'FA' under the electoral cap. (Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, East Berlin.)

River Tara at Turysk to Kowel and later to Luboml. By now the allies had 36,000 men, the Russians 70,000, and Schwarzenberg ordered a further withdrawal over the River Bug. The Saxons crossed that river near Opalin on 1 October at 10am. On 4 October the allies stood again at Brest-Litowsk, until 10 October when Russian pressure forced them to withdraw over the River Lesna.

Things remained fairly static until 27 October when the enemy suddenly and inexplicably fell back, and contact with them was lost until Durutte's division arrived to reinforce the allies and a reconnaissance in force was undertaken. It was discovered that the Russian main body had moved away to Slonim (Tschitschagoff was moving up to attack the remnants of the Grande Armée as they stumbled back towards the Beresina). Although the allies followed by forced marches, they were unable to catch the enemy—again the lack of cavalry was severely felt.

The Saxons became separated from the Austrians and were suddenly confronted by superior Russian forces under Generals von Sacken and Essen III. On 14 November the battle of Wolkowysk took place; Reynier withdrew that night but was caught again next day, and the struggle was renewed. The 16th found the Saxons still holding on grimly by Wolkowysk, not daring to fall back as they were so weak, when cannon shots from the rear of the Russian lines (at Izabelin) heralded the arrival of Schwarzenberg's Austrians. The Russians withdrew—there was no pursuit as the Saxon cavalry had practically ceased to exist. Saxon losses from 2–16 November were 1,300 dead and wounded.

The Austrians and Saxons now moved to Rudnia and thence to Brzesc, chasing Sacken's corps and capturing a large part of his baggage train. On 29 November an order was received from Napoleon to 'act against Tschitschagoff', but the Russian was already over the Njiemen and pursuit was in vain. By 7 December the Saxons were in Rozanna, the Austrians in Slonim having lost over 800 men en route due to exhaustion and frostbite. It was here that the allies received news of the dreadful catastrophe which had overtaken the Grande Armée. Reynier was left to do as he thought best by Napoleon, and he withdrew to Brzesc by 20 December while the Austrians went their own way to Ostrolenka. Saxon strength was now down to 6,000 men, but on that day the Grenadier-Bataillon 'Eychelberg' with 900 men joined them from Bialystock, where they had been serving as garrison since 5 July. Reynier now pulled further back to Siedlce, Sokolow and Losyce, and Schwarzenberg also moved west to Pultusk. The Russians occupied Brzesc and crossed the frozen River Bug. On 28 December the VII Corps withdrew over the Liwiec at Liw and Wengrow, and the Russian pursuit slackened off. On 3 January 1813 the Saxons were around Warsaw, and were attacked on 10 January by large numbers of cossacks; on 30 January Reynier crossed the frozen Vistula north of Warsaw, where he was joined by Bianchi's Austrian division next day. By this time the Austrians had adopted almost a neutral attitude, as they knew that their emperor would change sides and join the Tsar against Napoleon as soon as possible. The VII Corps now numbered about 4,000 men; Reynier, knowing of the probability of an Austro-Russian alliance, withdrew to Petrikau on 6 February and

The Saxon 'von Zastrow' Kürassiers storming the Rajewski redoubt at Borodino. The impractical old cavalry bicorn was replaced in 1810 by the much more impressive brass helmet shown here. Officers wore a wreath of gilt oak leaves around the black fur turban; only the front plate of the Kürass was worn. (After Knötel.)

R. Knötel

Schwarzenberg surrendered Warsaw (and 1,500 Saxon sick and wounded) to the Russians.

Reynier continued westwards to Kalisch. On 13 February the Saxons were dispersed in widely scattered cantonments around that town. In view of the proximity of the enemy the Saxon generals advised Reynier to concentrate the corps, but Reynier ignored them and the result was that at 3pm that day they were attacked by superior Russian forces and suffered heavy losses as each small detachment fought its way back to Kalisch. One such force (600 men and 200 horses and a battery of horse artillery under Generalmajor von Gablenz) was completely cut off, and did not rejoin the main body for some months (after the battle of Lützen) during which it wandered through Poland, Moravia and Bohemia. Saxon combat losses on 13 February were over 1,000 men and six 4pdr. regimental guns, all of which could have been avoided.

The VII Corps—now only one weak division—crossed the Oder at Glogau on 17 February; by 1 March they were in Bautzen, and reached Dresden

Helmet of a Saxon Kürassier officer, 1810–1815. This item is similar to that worn by Austrian heavy cavalry in the lion emblem along the side of the combe. At the front of the combe is the crowned cypher 'FA', and officer status is indicated by the gilt oak leaf wreath and the Medusa's head chinstrap bosses. The crest shown is obviously an item added at some time after the Napoleonic era. (Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, East Berlin.)

Cartridge pouch, officer of the Banner of Saxon Volunteers, 1813. When Landwehr and volunteer formations were raised in Germany in 1813 there was a strong upsurge of religious fervour connected with their mobilization, doubtless a Russian import! Note the oak and laurel leaves around the cross. (Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, East Berlin.)

on the 7th. Here 600 Saxon reinforcements joined them, bringing their strength up to 2,000. The cossacks followed closely, and on 19 March Marshal Davout blew up the two central arches of the Elbe bridge in Dresden, all ferries and boats on the river having been concentrated in Torgau and Königstein fortresses. On 21 March the Saxons in the VII Corps were reorganized into a single brigade, and Durutte's division provided a further 1,800 men.

Saxony was now split into two parts, one under French occupation, the other in Russian possession. The King of Saxony negotiated with Napoleon that the old VII Corps (now only 1,836 men strong) should be allowed to retire into the Saxon fortress of Torgau, there to be united with 6,000 new recruits under Generallieutenant von Thielmann (von Gablenz's formation of 1,000 men was still wandering through Austria). Thus assured, King Friedrich August now went to Regensburg, hoping to receive favourable terms from Austria which would enable him to break free from the French yoke and join the

Allies. Unfortunately for him these negotiations were cut short by Napoleonic threats to devastate Saxony, which forced him to continue the French alliance until the Allied victory of Leipzig in October 1813 allowed him to remove the shattered wreck of his kingdom from Napoleon's influence.

* * *

The Saxon units attached in 1812 to the main body of the Grande Armée were:
20th Heavy Cavalry Brigade (Generallieutenant von Thielmann and General Lorge): Saxon Kürassier Regiments 'Garde du Corps' and 'von Zastrow', and a horse artillery battery—fought at Borodino and successfully stormed the Grand Redoubt at 2pm (Thielmann was created a baron for this victory). Destroyed in the course of the campaign.
17th Light Cavalry Brigade (General de Brigade Domanget): Saxon Chevauxlegers Regiment 'Prinz Albrecht', Bavarian Chevauxlegers Regiments Nos. 1 and 2. Fought at Smolensk and Borodino; ground to pieces in the retreat.
31st Light Cavalry Brigade (General Delaitre) in the IX Corps: Saxon Chevauxlegers Regiment 'Prinz Johann', Baden Hussars. The Saxons were captured at the Beresina Crossing in November 1812.
Infantry Regiments 'von Rechten' and 'von Low' Entered Russia in August 1812 and joined the IX Corps; fought at the Beresina Crossing as the rearguard in Girard's division; destroyed at Wilna, 4 December 1812.

* * *

The Musketeer Battalions of the Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Maximilian' also saw service in August 1812 when Napoleon demanded that Saxony (among others) provide more than the agreed contingent for his ambitious plans. Two battalions of the regiment 'Prinz Maximilian' and a foot artillery battery of six guns, all commanded by Oberst von Ehrenstein, were therefore mobilized and joined the XI Corps under Marshal Augereau, Duke of Castiglione. The XI Corps was entrusted with the occupation of Swedish Pomerania and the defence of the Baltic coast north of Berlin. The Saxon contingent joined Morand's 'division', which now totalled only 2,300 men and occupied

Saxon Kürassier Pallasch, 1809–1813. An interesting comparison with the earlier illustration is possible here; the electoral cap has now been replaced by the royal crown and 'FA' has been expanded to 'FAR'. (Museum für Deutsch Geschichte, East Berlin.)

Stralsund until 9 March 1813. Then they withdrew along the Holstein border, past Hamburg (already occupied by Tettenborn's cossacks); crossed the Elbe near Zellenspieker and Winsen south of Hamburg on 17 March; and fell back over the Weser at Bremen on 22 March. Here three French guns and the company of marines were detached to St Cyr's division, which formed the garrison of that city.

In spite of lack of cavalry, Morand's division was now sent forward to act as outpost screen about

Tostedt towards Hamburg, where light cossack forces were pushed back. On 28 March a Russian cossack formation attacked them, and the newly-formed Hanoverian Landwehr came up in support of their Russian allies. Morand was not content to give way to such lowly opponents, and on 31 March he marched east against Lüneburg; early on 1 April the division stormed the town and captured it easily, driving off the few cossacks and local militia who formed the garrison. Morand's casualties were two lightly wounded, while the Russians and Hanoverians lost about forty dead. Although he now occupied the town, armed citizens continued to snipe at the invaders; and next morning the Russo-Prussian division of General von Dörnberg, aided by detachments from Tschernitscheff's troops, invested Lüneburg and stormed it. After a violent struggle, in which Morand was mortally wounded, the badly-managed Franco-Saxon garrison was scattered and captured. Saxon losses were 255 men dead and wounded, and the rest of the regiment 'Prinz Maximilian' was captured.

The 1813 Campaigns

In the first three months of the year Napoleon's incomparable genius and energy threw a new army together in France and brought it into central Germany to oppose Russian, Austrian and Prussian forces. The vassal states of the Confederation of the Rhine, still under French control, were unable to break with the dictator and join the Allies as they really wished. By March Saxony had 11,000 men in Torgau fortress and was urgently training these new recruits for the coming campaign, hopefully on the side of the Allies.

On 2 May Napoleon and Prince Eugene with 100,000 men defeated the Allies at Lützen and forced them to withdraw over the Elbe, and on 10 May King Friedrich August of Saxony was forced to issue orders for his troops to rejoin the Grande Armée. Generallieutenant von Thielmann, commander of Torgau, could not stomach this order; he handed over his command to Generalmajor Sahrer von Sahr and joined the Russian army.

On 11 May 6,000 Saxons in one division were placed under General Reynier's command and, together with Durutte's French division (without cavalry) they formed the new VII Corps. Together with the III Corps (Ney) and the V Corps (Lauriston) they were to operate against Berlin under Ney's control, and to destroy their Prussian opponents under Bülow.

A change of plan took place, however, and Napoleon ordered Ney to bring his three corps against Barclay de Tolly and Blücher (86,000 men, 700 guns) together with other French troops

Shako, sergeant of Grenadiers, Line Infantry, 1810–1813. This very French item shows the extent of the influence of that nation on the dress of their vassal states. The cords and plume are red, plate and chinscales brass, top band gold. The white cockade (over the crown) is missing. (Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, East Berlin.)

(160,000 men, 450 guns). On 21 May the battle of Bautzen began. Not surprisingly, the numerically superior French won the day, but the Russo-Prussians withdrew in good order. Due to lack of cavalry, Napoleon was unable to reap the fruits of this tactical victory; the VII Corps spearheaded his pursuit. In the next few days heavy skirmishing took place during which the Russo-Prussians fell back slowly. By 24 May they had withdrawn over the River Neisse. Saxon combat losses from 21 to 24 May were 40 dead, 508 wounded and 98 missing (most of the missing rejoined within the next few days). Nothing more of note occurred before hostilities ended for six weeks on 4 June, in accordance with the armistice of Poischwitz.

By the end of July the Saxons were joined in their camp near Görlitz by new battalions which permitted the formation of two divisions again:

1st Division (24th of the Grande Armée)
Commander: Generallieutenant Edler von Lecoq
Chief of General Staff: Major von Koppenfels
1st Brigade (Oberst von Brausse): Leib-Grenadier-Garde (1 bn.), Light Infantry Regiment 'von Lecoq' (2 bns.), 1st Bn. Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Maximilian', 2nd Bn. 'von Rechten', 1 company Feldjäger (military police)
2nd Brigade (Generallieutenant von Mellentin):
Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Spiegel' (companies of the Regiments 'Prinz Maximilian', 'von Rechten', 'Prinz Friedrich' and 'von Steindel'), Infantry Regiments 'Prinz Friedrich August' (2 bns.) and 'von Steindel' (2 bns.)
Artillery (Major von Roth):
1st and 2nd foot batteries (eight 6pdr. guns each) under Hauptmann Kühnel and Hauptmann Rouvroy
Engineers One company of sappers

2nd Division (25th of the Grande Armée)
Commander: Generallieutenant Sahrer von Sahr
Chief of General Staff: Major von Cerrini
1st Brigade (Oberst von Bose):
Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Sperl' (companies of the Regiments 'König', 'von Niesemeuschel', 'Prinz Anton' and 'von Low'), Light Infantry Regiment 'von Shar' (2 bns.)

Hussar sabretasche, Banner of Saxon Volunteers, 1813. Although an item worn by troopers, there is a considerable amount of expensive decoration on this example. (Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, East Berlin.)

Shako, sergeant of Musketeers, Line Infantry, 1810–1813. Plume, cockade and pompon are missing; the top band is gold, cords white, chinscales and plate brass. Note the way the chinscales are buckled around the plume socket. (Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, East Berlin.)

Infantry Regiments 'König' and 'von Niesemeuschel' (1 bn. each)
2nd Brigade Oberst von Ryssel:
Infantry Regiments 'Prinz Anton' and 'von Low' (2 bns. each)
Artillery (Major Gau): 3rd and 4th foot batteries (eight 6pdr. guns each) under Hauptmann Dietrich and Hauptmann Zandt

Light Cavalry Brigade (Generalmajor von Gablenz):
Husaren (8 sqns.), Ulanen (5 sqns.)
Two horse artillery batteries each of six guns—Hauptmann von Probsthayn
Reserve Artillery
One battery of eight 12pdr. guns—Hauptmann Rouvroy Artillery Park

On 1 August the strength of the corps was 18,344 all ranks including sick and wounded; battalions were under 600 strong, batteries below 160, and the two cavalry regiments had 1,200 horses between them. Durutte's division (the 32nd) now had about 8,000 men.

The 1813 Autumn Campaign

During the armistice fruitless peace negotiations were conducted in Prague, and with their final breakdown a new anti-Napoleonic alliance was formed between Russia, Prussia, Austria, Britain and Sweden. Total field forces were 490,000 men, 100,000 horses and 1,470 guns, a figure which owed a lot to the Prussian 'Krumper' system by which thousands of potential recruits had been trained and then discharged again in the years 1807–1813, allowing a rapid build-up of the army to be achieved. The allies were divided into three armies, one in northern Bohemia (Austrian) under Schwarzenberg, one in Silesia (mainly Prussians and Russians) under Blücher, and the Army of the North under Bernadotte (crown prince of Sweden) consisting of 80,000 Prussians (Bülow and Tauenzien), 10,000 Russians (Winzingerode), 25,000 Swedes and 15,000 volunteers (north Germans and some British).

Opposing them was Napoleon with 360,000 men, 40,000 horses and 1,300 guns, with Dresden fortified and supplied as the base for his future operations. It will be noted that Napoleon enjoyed the advantages of a unified command system, a single political aim and interior lines of operation.

Dolman of a trooper, Saxon Hussars, 1810–1813. This traditional Hungarian garment is clearly shown in all its detail. The central ball buttons are larger than those at the side; note the puffed shoulders, and the cuffs which are only added on the outer part of the sleeve. The musket and helmet are shown in detail in other illustrations. (Museum für Deutsche Geschichte, East Berlin.)

The Saxons (VII Corps) were grouped together with the IV Corps under Bertrand (French, Italians and Württembergers—18,000 men), the XII Corps under Oudinot (Bavarians, Westfalians, Hessen-Darmstädters and French—24,000 men) and the III Cavalry Corps under Arrighi (27 squadrons of light cavalry of various nations). Commander of this wing of the Grande Armée was Marshal Oudinot, and its task was to operate against the Army of the North, which covered Berlin.

On 17 August the armistice ended and all Saxon sick were sent off to Torgau fortress. Oudinot at once made a thrust at Berlin which led to the battle of Gross-Beeren on 24 August, in which the VII Corps made an advance into that village which was not supported by the IV and XII Corps. As a result,

French Cuirassiers storming the Grand Redoubt, Borodino. Repeated charges and counter-charges were made at this defence work, which changed hands several times during the day. Russian casualties in this battle were higher than they need have been due to their close, deep formations.

the Saxons were attacked by 30,000 infantry and 12,000 cossacks under Bülow and, when Durutte's division crumbled and fell back, leaving them completely unsupported, they had no alternative but to withdraw, fighting heavily all the way. Saxon losses were General von Sahr badly wounded, 116 dead, 359 wounded and 1,564 captured. Oudinot fell back on Wittenberg.

On 29 August a Prussian column of their IV Corps, under Generalmajor von Wobeser, attacked the village of Luckau, whose garrison consisted of 100 French and Italian gunners and sappers and 600 men of the Saxon Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Maximilian' and forced them to surrender after setting fire to the place.

Napoleon would not tolerate Oudinot's retreat and replaced him with Marshal Ney on 4 September. Next day the IV, VII and XII Corps began an advance on Jüterbogk. On 6 September the battle of Jüterbogk occurred in which von Bülow and Tauenzien defeated the French and their allies. The IV Corps was overrun, the Saxon infantry advanced in square to help them, but due to lack of support from the XII Corps (the reserve) and to the appearance of the Russians and Swedes at 4pm, the day was lost. The Saxons withdrew, again in squares, to guard against the ubiquitous enemy cavalry. Ney reported to Napoleon that the Saxons had failed in this battle—in truth they and the Bavarians had saved a withdrawal from becoming a débâcle and the withdrawal was caused by Ney's bad generalship.

The Saxons fell back on Torgau in good order, the IV and XII Corps were in much worse condition. In the last eight days the Saxon losses were 1,098 men dead and wounded, 2,000 captured, 12 guns and 40 waggons lost. Each infantry regiment was now re-formed into one battalion, and on 21 September the VII Corps was reduced to one division again:

Commander: Generallieutenant von Zeschau
Chief of staff: Major von Cerrini

1st Brigade Oberst von Brause

		Officers	*Men*	*Horses*
Light Infantry Regiment 'von Lecoq' (1 bn.)		17	750	—
Infantry Regiment 'von Rechten' (1 bn.)		12	300	—
Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Friedrich' (1 bn.)		15	580	—
Infantry Regiment 'von Steindel' (1 bn.)		17	620	—
1st Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Spiegel'		9	330	—
Feldjäger (1 company)		3	74	—
	Totals	73	2,654	—
2nd Brigade (Generalmajor von Ryssel):				
2nd Grenadier-Bataillon 'von Anger'		9	320	—
Infantry Regiment 'König' (1 bn.)		9	300	—
Infantry Regiment 'von Niesemeuschel' (1 bn.)		6	540	—
Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Anton' (1 bn.)		9	600	—
Infantry Regiment 'von Low' (1 bn.)		7	250	—
Light Infantry Regiment 'von Sahr' (1 bn.)		16	700	—
	Totals	56	2,710	—
Sappers and pontoniers		4	64	18
Artillery				
1st Foot Battery, 8 guns (Hauptmann Dietrich)		4	133	107
2nd Foot Battery, 8 guns (Hauptmann Zandt)		4	133	107
1st Horse Battery, 4 guns (Hauptmann Probsthayn)	}	6	209	277
2nd Horse Battery, 4 guns (Hauptmann Birnbaum)	}			
12pdr. reserve battery		3	177	150
Artillery Park and Train		12	540	575
	Totals	29	1,192	1,216
Cavalry Brigade (Oberst von Lindenau):				
Husaren—Regiment		16	607	603
Ulanen—Regiment		21	617	594
	Totals	37	1,224	1,197

Grand totals: 199 officers, 7,844 men, 2,431 horses, 30 guns

At the same time the XII Corps was disbanded and Guilleminot's division was given to the VII Corps.

Meanwhile the other two Allied armies—those of Silesia and Bohemia—advanced and made contact with the Army of the North; Napoleon concentrated his forces at Dresden. The Prussian General Yorck (Army of Silesia) crossed the Elbe at Wartenberg, and beat off the IV Corps which opposed him.

On 9 October Napoleon reviewed the VII Corps near Eilenburg, and delivered the following address:

'Soldiers of the VII Corps! You French and Saxons! You have been very unfortunate in the last affair. I have come to put myself at your head and to give you revenge! It is nothing new to see the French eagle and the Saxon flag together, as this alliance has existed since the Seven Years' War!

'You should remember that you are the same

The Grande Armée crossing a river during the advance into Russia in 1812. Although only a minor stream, this picture gives some idea of the disruption and chaos which could be caused by a water obstacle. The steepness of the banks was as considerable a problem as the depth of the water when considering the passage of horse-drawn vehicles of the artillery train.

soldiers as at Friedland and Wagram!

'I have not made peace so that the enemy can extend his frontiers to the Elbe. The king, who is your father, has given his army into my hand; he who cannot serve his king faithfully can go!'

This address, translated simultaneously into German by Caulaincourt for the benefit of the Saxons, was greeted by the French officers with the usual cries of 'Vive l'Empereur!' and by the Saxons with an eloquently stony silence. Their enthusiasm for the French cause had wilted as they had seen their homes plundered and destroyed by Napoleon's men during 1813. All they wanted was to join the Allies, and throw the dictator out of their country.

Napoleon thrust forward at the Army of Silesia at Wartenburg, but his quarry crossed to the left bank of the Saale on 12 October, joined Bernadotte's Army of the North, and marched up the course of that river. Napoleon re-concentrated his forces around Leipzig. The VII Corps arrived near Paunsdorf at 4am on 17 October, remaining in reserve on that and the next day. It was at this juncture that the Saxons voted with their feet, leaving the French lines to march into the arms of their natural allies. The German defections suffered by Napoleon at this period were as follows:

As the tide of events turned against Napoleon in the autumn of 1813, his German vassal states' contingents began to fall away from him on the battlefields. On the night of 23 September at Wörlitz near Oranienbaum, the Saxon 'Bataillon König' of the 2nd Brigade (eight officers and 300 men under Major von Bünau) went over to the Swedes. On 22–23 August the 1st and 2nd Westfalian Hussars had defected to the Allies at Zittau, and the 25th (Württemberg) Light Cavalry Brigade under Generalmajor Graf Normann did the same on 18 October. The King of Saxony publicly condemned this action, and Major von Bünau was court-martialled *in absentia*.

On 30 September the Army of Silesia crossed the Elbe at Wartenburg, and on 3 October they broke through the IV Corps (Bertrand) which opposed their bridgehead; Napoleon had to abandon the line of the Elbe. The three Allied armies concentrated east of Leipzig and pushed Napoleon back; he decided to stand at that city, and this resulted in the 'Battle of the Nations' (16–18 October 1813).

Describing the mood of the Saxons on hearing Napoleon's address to the VII Corps quoted above, a Saxon officer wrote: 'It must have been obvious to any bystander of this scene that the Saxon reaction was not rehearsed but spontaneous. This mood was not solely the result of their recent battle losses but certainly of the time spent in Torgau fortress [April and May 1813] during which hopes ran high that they would soon join their German brothers in the common fight against their arrogant French oppressors. Fate had decreed otherwise, but there was certainly no Saxon soldier there that day who followed the French eagles with a light heart. Their discontent had grown throughout 1813 as they had seen their homeland desolated, plundered and burnt by their French "allies". It cost the officers immense trouble to maintain order in their units.'

At dawn on 17 October, Reynier and the VII Corps reached the outwork 'Zum Heitern Blick' at Leipzig when the battle had already been raging for more than a day; they moved to Paunsdorf that evening, where news reached them that the Saxon division was to march off to Torgau. (Napoleon had just heard that the Bavarians had defected to the Allies, and no longer trusted any German troops.) Enemy action prevented this order being carried out, however, and the Saxons had to take up position at Paunsdorf opposing the Russians and Austrians under Bennigsen, Platow and Bubna.

During the morning of 18 October the Saxon Bataillon 'Prinz Friedrich' and some French units were captured in Taucha by the Army of the North, and the Saxon division was ordered to cover Ney's Left flank in the ensuing crisis. It was here that the defection of the Saxons occurred. The first to go was the Light Cavalry Brigade (Hussars and 'Prinz Clemens' Ulans), then the Schützen-Bataillon and, between 4 and 5pm, the infantry and artillery. The Allies, informed of what was about to happen, greeted the Saxons with cheers and sent Platoff's cavalry to hinder the French pursuit. The Saxon generals (Zeschau and Gersdorf) refused to sanction this movement, but General von Gersdorf's ambiguous written reply to a request to defect did not help clarify matters: 'Even now every brave Saxon must fight with increased vigour for the good of the Fatherland and for the King'. Thus Napoleon lost a division, complete with thirty-eight guns, at a most critical moment. The Saxon troops were sent to Leipzig after the battle to be reorganized.

In Allied Service

On 19 October Generalmajor von Ryssel assumed command of the Saxon division, which was sent to join Tauenzien's Prussian corps at the blockade of Torgau. On 28 October King Friedrich August of Saxony was taken into captivity by the Allies and a Russian, Prince Repnin, was appointed to govern Saxony. Generallieutenant von Thielmann (previously commander of Torgau and now in Russian service) assumed command of the Saxon army. Dresden capitulated to the Allies on 11 November. On 14 November remnants of the Saxon army left Torgau and marched to Merseburg, where on the 15th a reorganization took place. Four old infantry regiments ('von Niesemeuschel', 'von Rechten', 'von Low' and 'von Steindel') were disbanded, and the following units established:

Provisional 'Garde-Regiment' of three battalions: 1st Bn.—the old 'Leib-Grenadier-Garde'; 2nd Bn.—the old Bataillon 'König'; 3rd Bn.—the grenadiers of all remaining infantry regiments

Provisional 1st Line Infantry Regiment of two battalions: mainly from the old regiment 'Prinz Anton'

Provisional 2nd Line Infantry Regiment of two battalions: mainly from the regiment 'Prinz Maximilian' and the disbanded regiments 'von Rechten' and 'von Steindel'

1st Light Infantry Regiment of two battalions: the 1st Bn. out of the old regiment 'von Lecoq', the 2nd Bn. of reconvalescents and ex-prisoners of war

2nd Light Infantry Regiment of two battalions: the 1st Bn. formed of ex-prisoners of war, the 2nd Bn. of

1 Grenadier officer, Inf.Regt. 'Kurfürst', gala uniform, 1806
2 Sergeant, Inf.Regt. 'Prinz Friedrich', 1806
3 NCO, Saxon Hussars, 1806

1 Musketeer, Inf.Regt. 'von Thümmel', 1806
2 Corporal, Inf.Regt. 'Prinz Anton', 1806
3 Artillery officer, everyday dress, 1806

RICHARD HOOK

1 Artillery senior NCO, parade dress, 1806
2 Musketeer officer, Inf.Regt. 'von Bünau', everyday dress, 1806
3 Grenadier, Inf.Regt. 'von Bünau', parade dress, 1806

RICHARD HOOK

C

Troopers, Garde du Corps, parade dress, 1806

D

RICHARD HOOK

NCO, Chevauxlegers Regt. 'Prinz Clemens', 1806

RICHARD HOOK

E

1 Premier Lieutenant, Saxon Light Infantry, 1810-1813
2 Jäger, 1810-1813
3 Musketeer drummer, Inf.Regt. 'Prinz Friedrich August', 1810-1813

Officer of Hussars, Banner of Saxon Volunteers, 1813

1 Private, Saxon Landwehr, 1813
2 Field officer, Saxon Landwehr, 1813
3 Jäger zu Fuss, Banner of Saxon Volunteers, 1813

RICHARD HOO

men of the old Light Infantry Regiment 'von Sahr'

A battalion of Jägers
A Kürassier-Regiment
An Ulanen-Regiment
A Husaren-Regiment } each of three squadrons

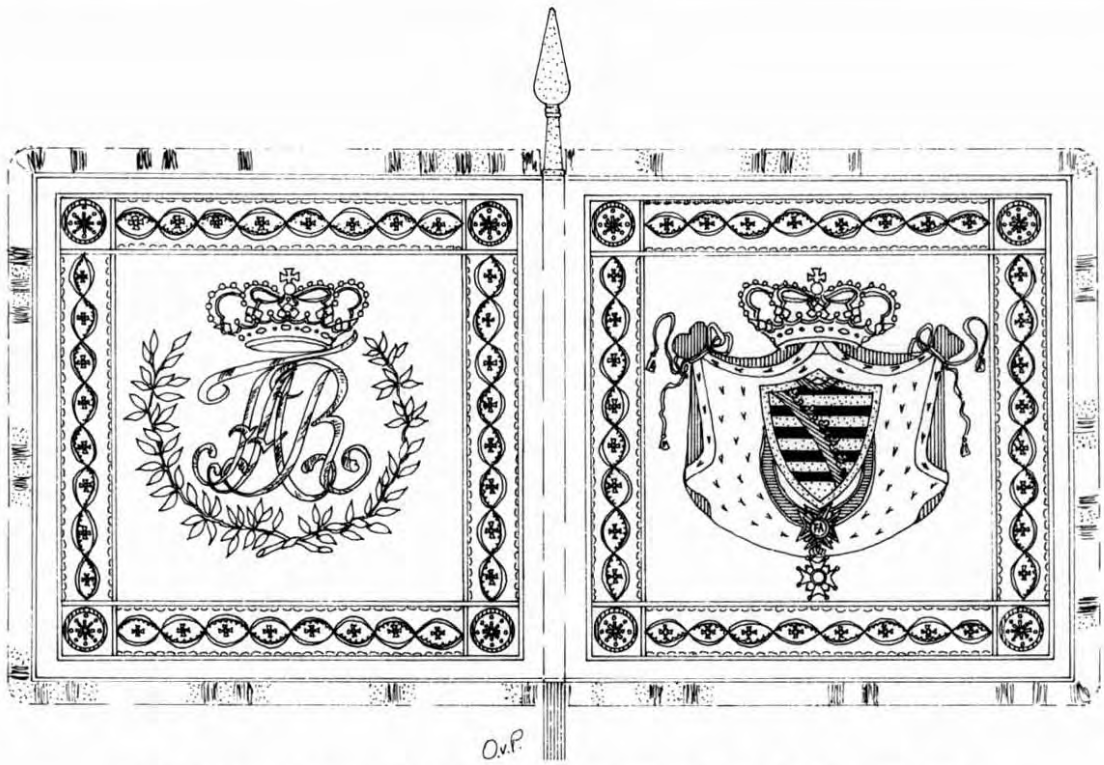
The artillery was re-formed into two foot batteries each of eight guns, and two horse batteries each of six guns.

A company of engineers and a bridging train

After the Austrian and Prussian models, a 'Landwehr' (territorial defence force) was set up, consisting of four regiments each of three battalions, and a 'Banner' of Volunteers of two battalions of light infantry and five squadrons of hussars was also raised.

There was a desperate shortage of everything from shirts to weapons, and uniformity of dress was scarcely to be seen. On 12 November, in an order of the day, Generallieutenant von Thielmann changed the national cockade from white to green, yellow and black.

The Saxons joined the III German Army Corps on 8 December. It was commanded by the Duke of Saxe-Weimar (a Russian general of cavalry) and included only the Saxons and a Fusilier Battalion from Saxe-Weimar. During 1814 the III Corps operated in the Netherlands and invested the fortress of Maubeuge, which agreed to an armistice on 12 April following Napoleon's abdication. While the Saxon Landwehr now went home, the army moved to Aachen and, on 21 June, to the area Koblenz-Bonn on the Rhine. On 9 August they moved to take possession of the Electorate of Hessen-Kassel, which was being revived after having been suppressed by Napoleon in 1806. By 25 August they returned to the Rhine. On 8 November 1814, in accordance with a decision by the Congress of Vienna, the Russian administration of Saxony was handed over to Prussia, with Minister von der Recke taking over the government and General von Gaudi the army. The Saxon army remained around Köln on the Rhine. The King of Saxony was still a prisoner of the Allies in Berlin.



Standard, Garde du Corps, 1810–1812. White cloth, gold and blue borders, gold embroidery and pike tip, red pike. This standard was lost in Russia. (*Geschichte der Sächsischen Fahnen und Standarten*)

Obverse, King's Colour, Infantry Regiment 'von Low' 1810–1812. White cloth; gold cypher, shield edging and pike tip; 'steel' grenades with red and yellow flames; black border, green oak leaves, brown acorns and white diamonds. Reverse as for reverse of cavalry standards but with white corner shields bearing 'RS' in black. (*Geschichte der Sächsischen Fahnen und Standarten*)

Napoleon's return to France from exile in Elba in April 1815 threw the Congress of Vienna into chaos and their armies into a frenzy of activity. General von Lecoq had now been replaced as commander of the Saxon field army by the ubiquitous General-lieutenant von Thielmann, who had now transferred to Prussian service. He was understandably regarded by his one-time compatriots as a blatant opportunist and was very unpopular. On 17 April he left to take over the III Prussian corps and General von Ryssel assumed command of the Saxons.

The Congress of Vienna had meanwhile decided that in payment for Saxony's faithful service to the Corsican dictator she should be divided, losing over half her area and nearly half her population to greedy Prussia. The army too was to be divided, all those living in the northern (new 'Prussian') area of the kingdom being transferred to the Prussian army.

When Marshal Blücher held a conference with the Saxon senior officers on the evening of 2 May 1815 near Liège to discuss details of the division of the army next day, some members of the Provisional Garde-Regiment mutinied and conducted a noisy demonstration outside Blücher's headquarters in protest at the impending division, breaking the windows of his office and causing a great disturbance. Order was restored; next day the seven ringleaders were court-martialled and shot, and the flag of the regiment ordered to be burned publicly. There is considerable doubt if this last order was actually carried out—certainly at least the centre portion of the colour was smuggled to safety.

The original plan for a quick division of the army was replaced by a more gradual process which was formulated in the area Venlo-Geldern-Krefeld from 11 to 17 May. The Saxons then marched east to Waldeck, where the king's proclamation of abdication from north Saxony was read to them and the division of the field army took place. Prussia gained 6,807 men; 7,968 remained with Saxony. This sorry day concluded with the 'new' Prussians being officially reminded of their loyalty and duty to King Friedrich Wilhelm III—morale can scarcely have been good.

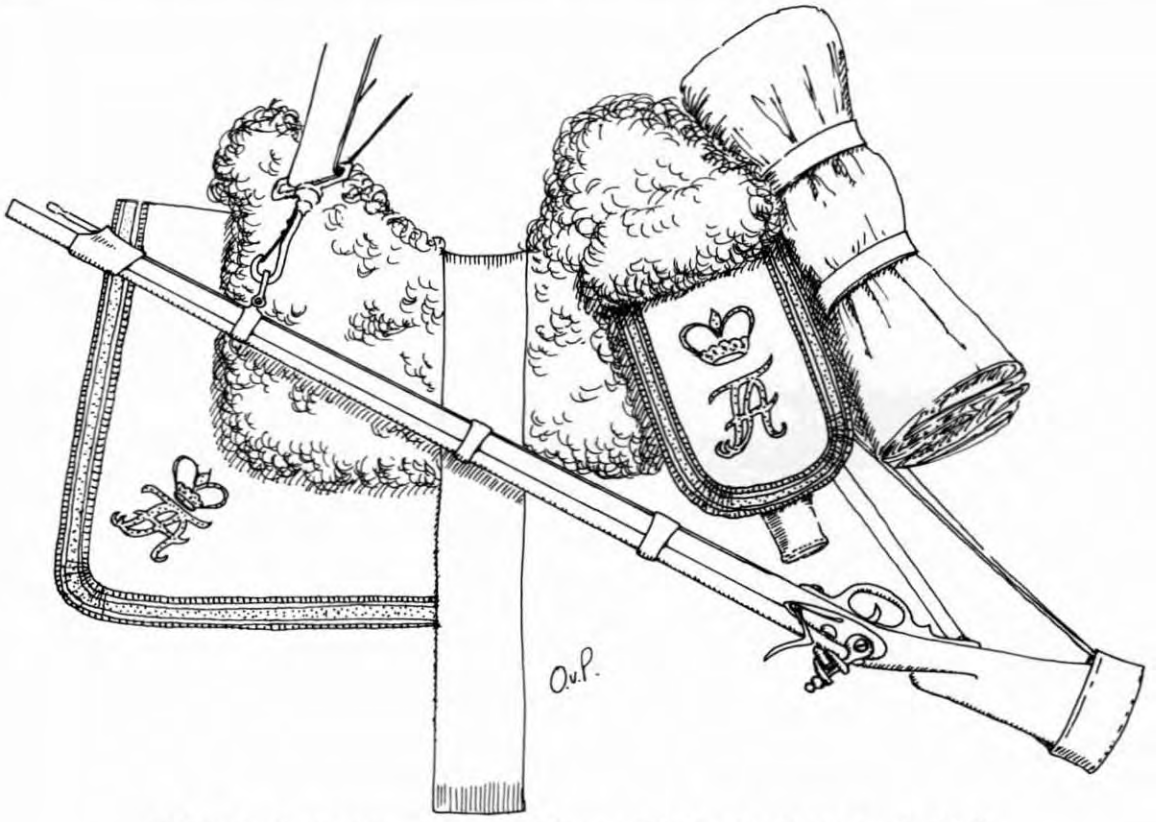
Shortly after this a proclamation of King Friedrich August of Saxony was read to his remaining troops.

'Soldiers! I have not spoken to you for a long time. The circumstances which prevented this are known to you. I have however always shared your fate and been touched by the many expressions of dependence, love and loyalty which you have made.

'Unavoidable pressures have forced me to part from you a great number of your comrades and give them into foreign sovereignty—to me a painful process. Only few of you are left, but it is not numbers but the inner strength, the spirit which makes an army honourable.

'You have always retained your courage and I am convinced that this will be so in the future; but good discipline, strict obedience to the orders of your superiors, prompt fulfilment of all your duties and good treatment of the populace—be it in an allied or enemy country—are also necessary for your good reputation.

'Let it be your target that in all Germany—nay



Saddle furniture, trooper, Garde du Corps, 1806. Clearly shown are the black sheepskin saddle cover, red shabraque and pistol holster covers, white greatcoat, regimental lace, and the musket in the muzzle-up position.

in all Europe—the name "Saxon" will only be spoken with honour. For my part you will always be assured of my consideration and paternal affection. Laxenburg, 22 May 1815

Friedrich August'

On 22 June the re-formation of the Saxon field army was begun at Osnabrück. By 7 July there were three line infantry regiments each of two musketeer and one grenadier battalions, a light infantry regiment (two battalions) and a Jäger battalion. The cavalry consisted of the 'Leib-Kürassier-Garde', a regiment of Ulans and one of Hussars. The artillery had four foot and two horse batteries. Manpower came from the disbanded Russian-German Legion, the Banner of Saxon Volunteers and from the Saxon Landwehr. On 8 July the Saxon corps was attached to the Austrian army of the Upper Rhine under Prince Schwarzenberg; here they took part in the blockades of the fortresses of Neu-Breisach and Schlettstadt, while the reserve was at Colmar. Schlettstadt capitulated on 25 August, Neu-Breisach somewhat later. The Saxons marched home at last on 20 November 1815.

The Uniforms

Infantry Uniforms 1806:

Musketeer Privates

Small bicorns with white pompon having a centre in the facing colour, round white cockade made of paper, white coat with facing colour on lapels, collar and cuffs, white or yellow buttons. White waistcoat and knee breeches, long black gaiters with brass buttons and shoes. White bandoliers, square brass buckle on waistbelt front with Saxon crest, calfskin pack, black cartridge pouch; musket and bayonet, straight-bladed sword. Powdered hair, one roll over each ear and a long pigtail bound in black. Red stock.

Table of Saxon Regiments, 1806

Infantry

Regiment	*Facings*	*Buttons*	*Remarks*
'Kurfürst'	red	yellow	20 December 1806—'König'
'von Sänger'		white	disbanded 1810
'Prinz Anton'	dark blue	white	
'Prinz Clemens'		yellow	
'Prinz Maximilian'	yellow	yellow	
'von Thümmel'		white	disbanded 1810
'Prinze Friedrich August'	light green	yellow	
'von Low'		white	
'Prinz Xaver'	light blue	yellow	disbanded 1810
'von Bünau'		white	
'von Niesemeuschel'	crimson	white	
'von Rechten'		yellow	
Garrison and Invalides	black	white	

Heavy Cavalry

Regiment	*Facings*	*Lace*
Garde du Corps	dark blue	yellow with two red stripes
Karabiniers	red	yellow with red and black edges—disbanded 1810
Kürassier 'Kurfürst'	red	yellow with red edges—20 Dec. 1806 'König'; 24 June 1807 'Leib-Kürassier-Garde'
Kürassier 'Kochtitzky'	yellow	yellow with black and white edges—1809 'von Zastrow'

Light Cavalry (Chevauxlegers)

Regiment	*Facings*	*Buttons*	*Remarks*
'Prinz Clemens'	light green		—1811 converted to Ulans (Lancers)
'Prinz Albrecht'	dark green	yellow	
'Prinz Johann'	black	buttons	—1813 disbanded
'von Polenz'	light blue		—1813 disbanded

Grenadier Privates

As for musketeers except: Austrian pattern black bearskin bonnets with brass front plates, backing in white and the facing colour; brass match cases on the pouch bandolier; sabres, short muskets. Moustaches.

Sharpshooters

Two officers, two drummers from each regiment, one corporal and eight men from each musketeer company. As for musketeers except with a green plume on the bicorn; rifles.

Musketeer Officers

Clothing of finer quality than the men, silver or gold hat edging, white silk cockade with gold loop, gold gorget with the electoral crest in silver and enamel, silver and crimson waist sash, gold hilted sword in black sheath with silver and crimson sword knot and tassel, black hessian boots. Malacca canes with golden tips, spontoons.

Grenadier Officers

As for Musketeer officers except: bearskin cap with gilt and enamel front plate and golden cords and tassels, carbines, small black cartridge pouches at the front of the belt; two gold/silver epaulettes; carbines.

Non-Commissioned Officers

Corporals: As for privates of their companies except silver/gold edging to bicorn, crimson and white sabre knot, hazelnut cane, spontoons and pistols (musketeer NCOs) or carbines (grenadier NCOs). White silk cockade.

Drummers

As for privates of their companies except: white swallows' nests edged in the facing colour; short feather plumes in the facing colour; brass drums edged white and facing colour.

Following the 1806 campaign, officers lost their gorgets and canes and orders were given that hair should no longer be powdered.

In 1809 the sash was abolished as an officer's status badge and NCOs gave up their spontoons and pistols, receiving instead carbines.

Cavalry Uniforms 1806:

Badges of rank were as for the infantry except in the hussars where rank was shown by varying numbers of white (silver for officers) chevrons on the sleeve above the cuff.

Heavy Cavalry

Large bicorn with white feather plume and cockade; loop, button and corner tassels as for the infantry. Single-breasted buff tunics hooked together to the waist. Facings shown on turnover collar, cuffs and turnbacks; regimental lace edging to collar, shoulder strap, cuffs, turnbacks and front of tunic. The waistcoat was in the facing colour edged in the regimental lace. Buff breeches, heavy cavalry boots, buckle-on steel spurs, white bandoliers.

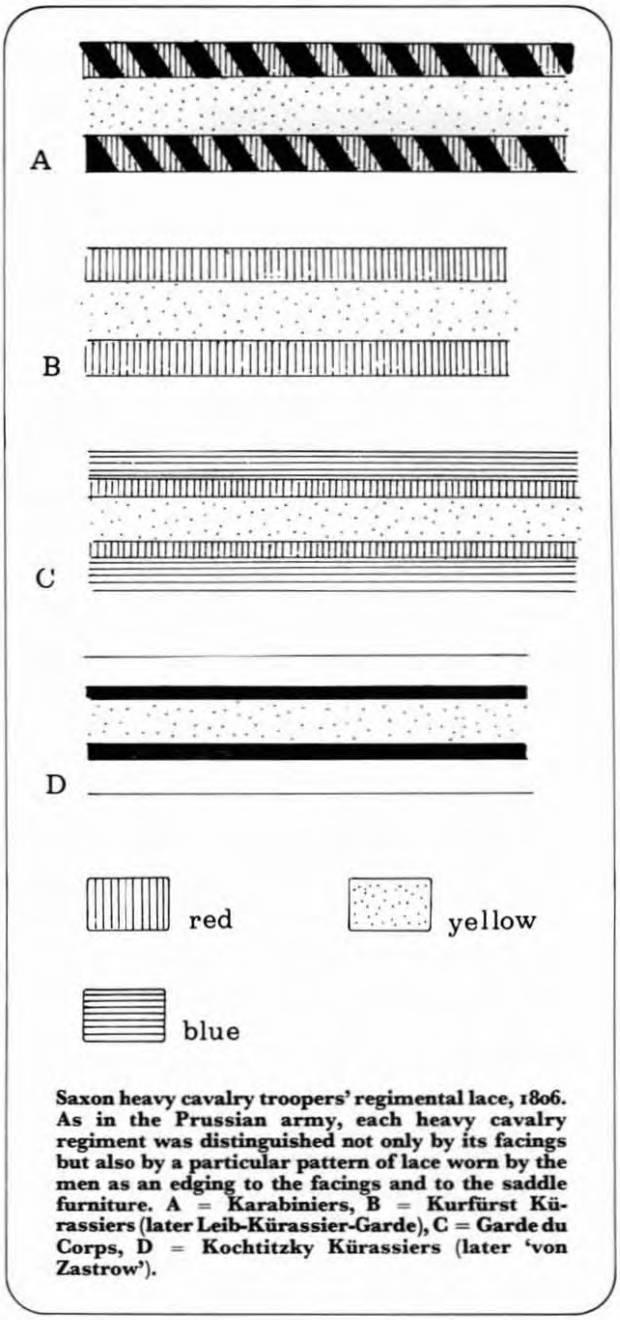
Saddle furniture was in the facing colour edged in the regimental lace and decorated with the electoral cypher. A white or black sheepskin saddle cover was worn. Black harness, English saddles. Trumpeters wore reversed colours and had red plumes. Officers' plumes had black bases, NCOs' plumes black tips.

Light Cavalry

As above except: red tunics with two rows of buttons, worn with the top two buttons open and the top corners of the lapels turned over to show the facings. Facings worn on collar, square cuffs, lapels and turnbacks. Waistcoats in the facing colour; buff breeches, heavy cavalry boots, white bandoliers, buckle-on steel spurs, saddle furniture in the facing colour decorated with the electoral cypher.

Hussars

Black mirliton (winged cap) with light blue wing edged white, white plume; white dolman with light blue collar and cuffs, white lace and ball buttons, light blue pelisse edge-trimmed with fur, white lace and ball buttons, crimson and white sash, white breeches and belts. NCOs had white fur trim to their pelisses.



Saxon heavy cavalry troopers' regimental lace, 1806. As in the Prussian army, each heavy cavalry regiment was distinguished not only by its facings but also by a particular pattern of lace worn by the men as an edging to the facings and to the saddle furniture. A = Karabiniers, B = Kurfürst Kürassiers (later Leib-Kürassier-Garde), C = Garde du Corps, D = Kochtitzky Kürassiers (later 'von Zastrow').

Artillery

Dark green coats, red facings, yellow buttons, buff breeches and waistcoat.

Engineers

As for artillery but with white buttons, red waistcoat and breeches.

Leib-Grenadier-Garde

Bearskins, red coats, yellow facings, white buttons and breeches, yellow waistcoats, white/silver epaulettes. Musicians wore yellow coats faced light blue.

Private, Light Infantry, 1810–1813. This contemporary plate by Sauerweid is unusually crude for that accomplished artist, and must have been one of his earlier sketches. The French shako has brass fittings, dark green cords and plume, and the dark green tunic is faced black with red piping and yellow buttons. The grey breeches also have red piping to sides and front. As well as a bayonet, this man carries a Hirschfänger or sword.

Right:
Officer of Hussars, 1810–1813. In common with other hussars, this regiment used the traditional wooden saddle associated with the old Hungarian (and Asiatic) cavalry. The light blue dolman, pelisse and breeches are trimmed with silver lace and buttons. The pelisse fur is black. As in the Prussian army, officers' plumes had a black base. (After Knötel.)

Swiss Life Guard (Schweizerleibgarde)
Bicorns edged silver, yellow coats, light blue facings, breeches and stockings, white buttons. The uniform was edged in blue and white striped lace.
Nobel Cadet Corps
Bicorn, red coats, white facings, buttons, breeches and stockings, silver epaulettes.
Generals
Large bicorns with gold lace edging loop and button, silver and crimson cords, double-breasted dark blue coat with gold embroidery to collar, cuffs, front and pocket flaps, full, dark blue skirts; red breeches; heavy cavalry boots with buckle-on steel spurs, silver and crimson sash.

Infantry Uniforms 1810–1813:
The new uniforms reflected the French influence as did rank badges, tactics, discipline and (partially) organization in the Saxon army.
Musketeer Privates
French-style shako with crowned brass front plate bearing 'FA', brass chinscales, white cockade, cords and plume. Short white coat with collar, lapels, cuffs and turnbacks in the facing colour, buttons in the regimental colour (white or yellow); white breeches and leatherwork, short black gaiters, shoes and pouch.
Grenadier Privates
As for musketeers except: red plumes and cords, red epaulettes and sabre knots.
Musketeer Officers
Shako with gold top band in the form of clover leaves, white plumes with black bases; long-skirted white tunics, gold epaulettes according to rank in the French fashion, silver and crimson sword knot, curved sabre. Grey breeches, boots.
Grenadier Officers
As for musketeer officers but with swords.
Drummers
As for privates of their companies but red shako cords and plumes; swallow's nests and drums as before. White drum apron.

Rank Insignia
Corporal—two diagonal bars on the lower sleeve in the facing colour, yellow top band to shako.
Sergeant—one gold diagonal bar and gold top band to shako.
Sergeant-Major—two gold bars, two shako bands.

Adjutant, 'Prinz Albrecht' Chevauxlegers, 1810–1813. In this excellent rear view, Sauerweid shows clearly details of the red light cavalry tunic with its light green facings and yellow buttons. The shako top band and cords are silver, the chinscales gold. The red shabraque is edged light green and yellow.

Company Quartermaster—two bars on the lower sleeve in the facing colour, one gold bar on the upper sleeve, one gold top band to shako.

Officers' ranks were shown by epaulettes in the button colour.

Sub-Lieutenant—two red lines along each strap; thin fringes.

Lieutenant—as before but with one red line on each strap.

Adjutant Major—one unfringed, plain epaulette on the left shoulder, a fringed one on the right.

Captain—two plain, fringed epaulettes.

Chef de Bataillon—one epaulette with heavy bullion fringes on the left, an unfringed epaulette on the right.

Major—two fringed epaulettes with the straps in gold, the fringes in silver and vice versa.

Colonel—bicorn, two fringed epaulettes in the button colour.

General-Major—Black feather edging to bicorn, two stars on each epaulette, silver and crimson waist sash.

General Lieutenant—White feather edging to bicorn, three stars on each epaulette, sash as before.

General—as before but with gold embroidery to coat.

Cavalry Uniforms 1810–1813:

Kürassiers

Brass helmet with black fur turban, brass combe and black crest, tunic etc. as before.

Chevauxlegers

Infantry shako, the new style tunic, otherwise as before.

Hussars

As for Chevauxlegers except: light blue dolman, pelisse and breeches, black collar, cuffs and fur, white lace and buttons.

Artillery

Shako, new pattern tunic, otherwise as before.

Sappers

As for artillery but with white buttons.

Trooper, Leib-Kürassier-Garde, parade dress, 1810–1813. The brass shoulder-scales helped protect against sabre cuts and the cuirass front plate was proof against pistol shot. The brass helmet with black fur turban and crest was decked with a white plume for parades; the red facings are edged in the red and yellow regimental lace, as is the red saddle furniture. Note that the carbine has replaced the musket and that it is now carried muzzle down in the boot. Contemporary plate by Sauerweid.

Trumpeters 1810–1813

Heavy Cavalry

As for troopers except: red crest and plume, silver trumpets, blue and white cords. Garde du Corps and Leib-Kürassier-Garde—red tunics with blue and white facings respectively; vacant 'von Zastrow' Kürassiers yellow tunic, white facings.

Light Cavalry

Red shako and plume, white cords; tunics in the facing colour faced red, brass trumpets, blue and white cords.

Hussars

Light blue shako, red plume and dolman, light blue pelisse and breeches, white lace and buttons, black fur; brass trumpets, blue and white cords.

Horse Artillery Brigade

Green shako, red cords, plume and tunic, dark green facings, yellow buttons and edging to collar and cuffs, brass trumpet, yellow, red and green cords.

* * *

In October 1813, after Saxony had joined the Allies against France, the cockade changed from white to white-round-yellow-round-green. Uniform (as such) was scarcely to be seen; the country was economically crippled and soldiers wore anything which would keep out the cold and rain with little regard for smartness or uniformity. Officers' ranks were indicated by epaulettes in the Russian style and the gorget was discarded. From 7 June 1815 the cockade became white with a green rim, and officers' sword knots and hat tassels were silver with green.

Saxon Flags and Standards

In 1802 new infantry colours were issued, embroidered on silk. Each battalion carried one flag, the 1st Battalion a white colour or 'Leibfahne', the 2nd Battalion an 'Ordinärfahne' in the regimental facing colour. All flags bore the same devices and were distinguished regimentally by their own borders; the colours were as follows:

'Leib-Grenadier-Garde'—Leibfahne red & green; Bataillonsfahne blue & silver grey.

'Kurfürst' and 'Sänger'—red, yellow and white with green leaves.

'Prinz Anton' and 'Prinz Clemens'—blue and yellow.

'Prinz Maximilian'—yellow and orange with small green leaves.

'von Thümmel'—as for 'Prinz Maximilian' but orange like their facings and silver grey like their buttons; the small leaves were dark gold.

'Prinz Fr. August'—black ground, green oak leaves, brown acorns, small yellow flowers (the button colour).

'von Low'—as above but white flowers (button colour).

'Prinz Xaver'—yellow and blue.

Trumpeter, Garde du Corps, 1810–1813. Again, a Sauerweid plate; the brass helmet has red crest and plume, leopard skin turban with brass lion's head, and white cockade. Instead of the buff tunic of the regiment, the trumpeter wears red with a band of red, yellow and blue patterned lace across the top of each sleeve. The saddle furniture is in the facing colour—dark blue—and is edged with two bands of the regimental lace.

Officer, Leibgrenadier-Garde, parade dress, 1810–1813. Sauerweid's plate clearly shows the Austrian flavour of the bearskin cap with its gilt plate and silver cords. For parade wear officers had this expensive red tunic, with much silver embroidery on the collar, lapels and cuffs. The sash had been discarded in 1810, but the silver gorget was worn when on parade, as were the bearskin cords.

'von Ryssel' —blue and silver grey
'von Rechten' —ponceau & silver grey, gold clover leaves.
'von Niesemeuschel' —as above but silver grey clover leaves.

The new flags were presented at Striessen in September 1802 and were carried until 1811.

The 1810 pattern flags included a new central crest with cypher 'FAR' under a king's crown, and the corner badges were 'RS' on a shield and the Saxon arms on a shield on the reverse and obverse sides respectively. The light blue ribbon and star of the Order of the White Eagle was replaced by the green ribbon and star of the Order of the Saxon Crown.

Tips were gold and showed the electoral/royal cypher. Gold cords and tassels were attached below the speartips. Jägers, Schützen and artillery carried no colours.

Cavalry Standards

Cavalry carried one standard per squadron and used their old (1735 pattern) standards until 1811. These were embroidered, fringed and came in two versions, the white 'Leibestandarte' and the red 'Ordinärestandarte'. The heavy cavalry had four white 'Leibestandarten', the Chevauxlegers regiments one 'Leibestandarte' and three red ones.

All fringes cords and tassels were white and crimson and the regimental borders were as shown in the diagrams with colours as below:

'Leib-Kürassier-Garde' —crimson shaded.
Karabiniers —ponceau and green
'Kochtitzky' —yellow shaded

The Chevauxlegers standard edgings were as follows:

'Polenz' —light blue shaded with old gold.
'Prinz Clemens' —green shaded with small violet dots between the leaf-like ornaments.
'Prinz Johann' —black and green
'Prinz Albrecht' —green and brown oak twigs

All other details as for the heavy cavalry.

To differentiate between the four squadrons of a regiment an 'ell' of taffeta ribbon was tied with cords of the same colour to the lance-head. The

colours were: white (Leib-Eskadron); red (2nd Sqn.); blue (3rd Sqn.); yellow (4th Sqn.). The hussars carried no standards.

The Landwehr carried white or green colours with the Saxon crest on one side, the Landwehr cross on the other (in silver or gold) and optional mottoes and regimental designations.

The Plates

As is so often the case when studying evidence of uniforms of the Napoleonic and earlier periods, minor or major variations may be found between written regulations and contemporary illustrations. Since it is unusual for the researcher to be blessed with exact knowledge of the sources used by contemporary artists, or the circumstances in which their work was prepared, it is pointless to speculate. That variations should occur is a matter of no surprise to students with a reasonable general knowledge of the actual conditions of military life of the period.

A1 Grenadier officer, Infantry Regiment 'Kurfürst', gala uniform, 1806

At this time only grenadier and artillery officers of the Saxon army wore epaulettes. All 'metal' was in the button colour. The Austrian-style bearskin had golden cords and tassels added for full dress. Instead of a spontoon or halberd, grenadier officers were armed with a carbine whose ornate, broad-bladed knife-bayonet incorporated the electoral cypher. The barrel was browned, the ramrod of wood, the pipes and furniture of brass, and the sling of red leather. The brass waistbelt plate bears the enamelled escutcheons shown rather more clearly on C2. The heart-shaped gorget and the cap plate bear the 'FA' cypher on a red backing in a crowned silver escutcheon.

A2 Sergeant, Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Friedrich', 1806

Rank is indicated by the crimson and silver sword-knot, the malacca cane, the spontoon, the gold hat edging, the gloves, and the pistol carried on the bandolier (see B2). The cane was a practical disciplinary instrument as well as a status symbol!

Sapper, 1810–1813. Apart from the white buttons, the special cap badge, the arm badge and the collar lace, the dark green uniform faced red was of artillery cut. The leatherwork was buff, the breeches grey with red piping; the plume was dark green. (A contemporary plate by Sauerweid.)

Saxon General, parade uniform, 1812. The hat braid is gold, the feather trim black, while the dark blue parade coat carries much gold embroidery (the everyday coat was plain). The waist sash is crimson and silver and, like Austrian generals, the Saxon commanders wore red breeches. The saddle furniture is red and gold.

A3 NCO, Saxon Hussars, 1806
Typical hussar uniform of the period, complete with mirliton cap, dolman and fur-edged pelisse laced across the chest, barrel sash, and low-slung sabre and sabretache. The pelisse would be worn as a jacket in cold weather. Note interesting blue-vandyked leather elbow patch.

(All three figures on this plate are from contemporary colour plates in the Lipperheide Collection, Berlin.)

B1 Musketeer, Infantry Regiment 'von Thümmel' 1806
Saxon musketeers wore a small cocked hat edged in regimental button colour, with a pompon halved in facing colour over white; the corner tassels or 'pulls' were crimson within white. Note interesting scarlet stock on this and other figures. The nickname of the heavy and inefficient musket, with its red sling, was *Kuhfuss*—'cow's foot'.

B2 Corporal, Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Anton', 1806
This unusual rear view shows the peculiar pistol holster and 'carbine hook' arrangement to prevent loss of the weapon in action. The sabre is obscured here, but would have a crimson and white sword-knot. Note the NCO's hat edging; and the cane hooked to an upper tunic button, passing under the arm and tucked through the turnbacks. The spontoon head is a different design to that of the sergeant (A2).

The Battle of the Nations, Leipzig, 18 October 1813. Prince Schwarzenberg (centre, mounted, at the salute) brings news to the Emperor of Austria (in white), the Tsar (to his left in green) and King Friedrich Wilhelm III of Prussia (right, in dark blue) of the Allied victory against Napoleon and his allies.

B3 Artillery officer, everyday dress, 1806
The dark green coat, faced red, with yellow buttons, was the Saxon artillery's hallmark at this time; for daily wear a single-breasted coat was worn, replaced for full dress by a double-breasted model with buttoned-back red lapels, exposing the buff waistcoat, which was heavily embroidered for full dress. Note the small collar patch.

(All three figures from contemporary colour plates in the Lipperheide Collection, Berlin.)

C1 Artillery senior NCO, parade dress, 1806
The élite status of the branch is reflected in the gold lacing; note that the two lines of lace followed the rear edge of the gauntlet cuff. Rank is indicated by the black-topped plume and the cane. Note the special sabre of the branch. Corporals wore only a single line of lace on the cuff. (After contemporary plate, Lipperheide Collection, Berlin.)

C2 Musketeer officer, Infantry Regiment 'von Bünau', everyday dress, 1806
Gorget and sash would be added to the uniform when on parade with the troops. Plain silver hat edging indicates a junior officer. The silver belt plate bears the enamelled Saxon and Polish arms: a silver and crimson electoral cap above two oval escutcheons tilted inwards, the left halved black over white with crossed red swords, the right of yellow and black stripes with a decorative green 'clover-leaf' vertical. The hat cockade is white silk. Incidentally, it may be noted that infantry officers

The storming of Lüneburg, late March 1813. It was here that the Saxon Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Maximilian' was captured when Morand's division was overwhelmed by the Russians and Prussians.

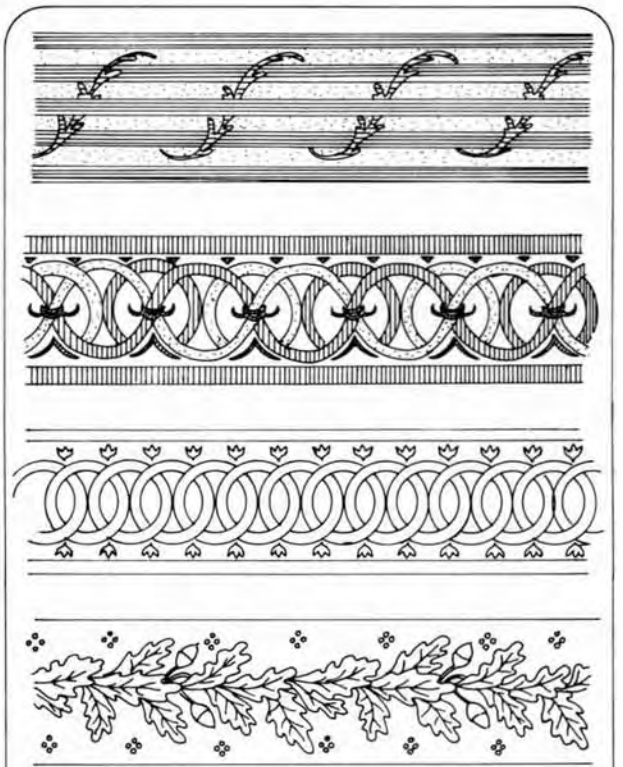
saluted with the left hand, and cavalry officers with the right. (After a contemporary colour plate by Adolph Heinrich Hess.)

C3 Grenadier private, Infantry Regiment 'von Bünau', parade dress, 1806
The front plate of the Austrian-style bearskin shows the 'FA' cypher beneath the electoral cap and between laurel sprays and grenades. The top patch is in facing colour, with a white cross; white cords and tassels hanging to the right were added for parades (these furnishings being silver for officers, as was the cross). Grenadier soldiers wore moustaches. Note the red musket sling. (After Adolph Heinrich Hess.)

D Troopers, Garde du Corps, parade dress, 1806
Each Saxon heavy cavalry regiment had its own lace edging, shown on the men's tunics and horse furniture. This élite regiment had gold-edged parade headgear even for troopers. The ammunition pouch was slung on a rather narrower bandolier than the carbine. Note the rowel spurs, and the scarlet stock, just visible. The yellow belt plate again bears the arms of Saxony and Poland. (After Adolph Heinrich Hess.)

E NCO, Chevauxlegers Regiment 'Prinz Clemens', 1806
NCO rank is indicated by the black plume tip, the cane slung on the front right of the saddle, the lack of a carbine, and the gold hat trim. Cavalry bicorns were much larger than those of the infantry. The red tunic has a turn-over collar, and two rows of eight brass buttons. The docked horse tail is apparently a reminder of the distinguished part played by the regiment in the battle of Kolin, 18 June 1757.

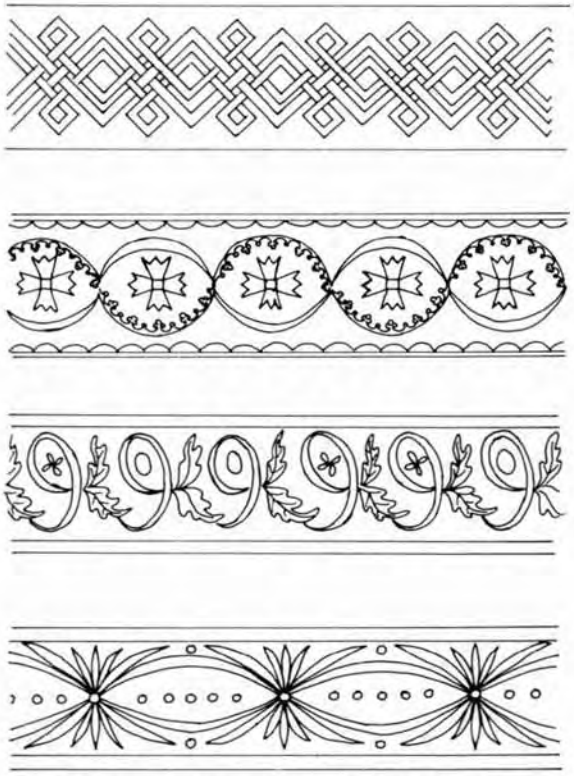
F1 Premier Lieutenant, Saxon Light Infantry, 1810–1813
The dark green uniform faced black at collar and cuff was introduced in 1810 to give this regiment camouflage in its skirmishing rôle. The ornate gold top band to the shako is in the form of a clover-leaf motif, as in the decorative strip down the centre of the Saxon crest. The Hungarian breeches and boots and the slung sabre emphasize the typical 'light cavalry' flavour of light infantry uniforms of the period. (After Alexander Sauerweid.)



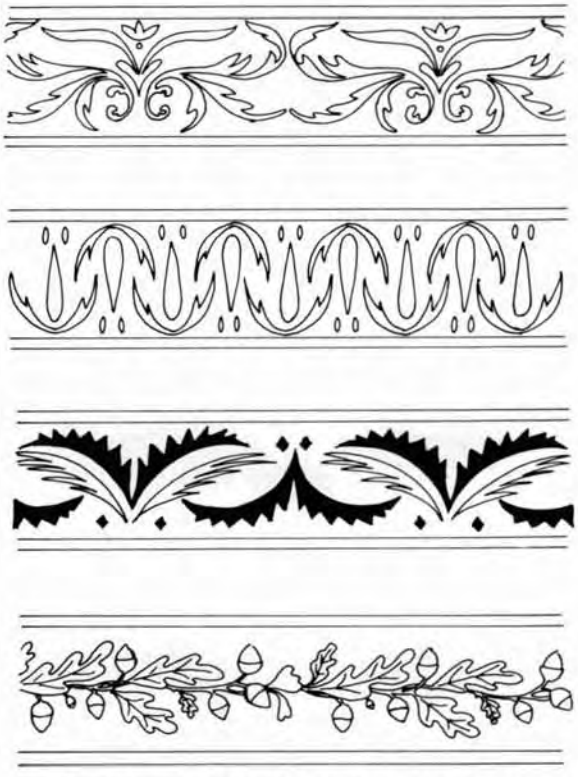
Saxon Infantry Colour edgings 1809–15; *top to bottom*: 'Prinz Anton' and 'Prinz Clemens'—blue and yellow. 'Kurfürst' and 'Sänger'—red borders, red and yellow rings and waves, green 'leaves', white ground. 'Prinz Maximilian' and 'von Thümmel'—green leaves, yellow and orange rings for 'Pz Max', orange leaves, orange and silver rings for 'von Th'. 'Prinz Friedrich August' and 'von Low'—black ground, green leaves, brown acorns, with yellow dots for 'Pz FA' and white dots for 'von L'.

F2 Jäger, Saxon Jäger-Corps, 1810–1813
Alone among the infantry, the Jägers wore a shako plate other than the crowned cypher. Uniform differences between Light Infantry and Jägers were slight. Note black facings on cuff and front part of the collar edged red; and double rear turnbacks of light green edged red, united at the points by a gold button. The shoulder-straps were of 'duck-foot' shape, three-pointed at the outer end. A black pouch with a cut-out brass royal cypher on the lid was slung at the back from the bandolier passing over the left shoulder. Note the Jäger rifle and sword-bayonet. (After Alexander Sauerweid.)

F3 Musketeer drummer, Infantry Regiment 'Prinz Friedrich August', 1810–1813
The 1810 uniform of the Line Infantry incorporated many French items, including the



Saxon Infantry Colour and Cavalry Standard edgings, 1809–15; *top to bottom*: I.F. 'Prinze Xaver' and 'von Ryssel'—former yellow and blue stripes, latter grey and blue stripes. Garde du Corps—white ground, blue edging, gold embroidery. Karabiniers—white ground, gold edging, red '9s' and green leaves. Kochtitzky Kürassiers—white ground, orange edging, yellow dots and leaves.



Saxon Cavalry Standard edgings, 1809–15; *top to bottom:* Leib-Kürassier-Garde—crimson on white. Chevauxlegers Regt. 'Prinz Clemens'—white ground, green leaves, violet dots. Chevauxlegers Regt. 'Prinz Johann'—white ground, green edging and leaves, black crescents and diamonds. Chevauxlegers Regt. 'Prinz Albrecht'—white ground, red edging, green leaves, brown acorns.

shako, tunic cut, and rank and company badges. Drummers' distinctions included the red shako plume and cords, and the swallow's nests edged in black and yellow diagonal 'twist' lace on white between green edging. Note 'duck-foot' shoulder-straps and tunic turnbacks piped green. (After Alexander Sauerweid.)

G Officer of Hussars, Banner of Saxon Volunteers, 1813
In common with other German states which fell under Allied control in 1813, Saxony was required to raise as many armed men as possible, as quickly as possible. To make the prospect of soldiering as palatable to the middle classes as was feasible, they were urged to join *Freiwillige* or volunteer units; the requirement for membership of these selective units was sufficient money to arm and equip oneself. Such units were thus usually well dressed, and were handled by drill sergeants with considerably more respect than other recruits.

H1 Private, Saxon Landwehr, 1813
Another widespread German practice in that year of crisis was the raising of *Landwehr* or Home Guard units on the Austrian model. The example illustrated is unusually well and completely dressed and equipped and probably represents an ideal hardly ever achieved. Shortages were endemic, and most of these enthusiastic but (initially) not very effective troops wore whatever they could lay hands on. Civilian coats and clogs were to be seen in plenty, with arms and accoutrements of every source and vintage. 'Shakos' of wickerwork covered with oilskin were not uncommon. After the armistice, however, when intensive training was given and stocks of French, British and Austrian weapons

were distributed, the Landwehr performed very well in the autumn fighting. This soldier has complete French equipment and a French musket. Note the new white-yellow-green cockade.

H2 Field officer, Saxon Landwehr, 1813
Badges of rank were normally as for the Line, but uniforms were often very simple. The *litewka* or double-breasted coat, as illustrated here, was very popular. The gold collar lace adds to the Prussian flavour. Dark blue or black coats were normal, so that men could dye civilian coats of other shades and achieve a degree of uniformity. Retired Line officers frequently received appointments in Landwehr regiments. Note that the sash fell from the bow under the left arm in two long tasselled ends.

H3 Jäger zu Fuss, Banner of Saxon Volunteers, 1813
Jägers of this period were often recruited from among peacetime state forestry employees, whose marksmanship and above-average fieldcraft were invaluable in the skirmishing rôle. The broad-brimmed felt hat is typical of German jägers, as is the octagonal-barrelled rifle (here, a Westfalian model) and the *Hirschfänger* sword-bayonet. The cross was typical of the insignia of Landwehr units; note the brass lion mask and looped chain above it. A single shoulder-strap is balanced by gold aiguillettes on the right. It was unusual to have a complete unit armed with rifles, due to their relatively slow rate of fire. The tunic turnbacks are double; that is, both corners of each tail folded inward to meet at the point, exposing the red lining.

Farbtafeln

A1 Die Parademütze aus Bärenfell mit Goldleinen verziert, die Epauletten, der Karabiner mit reichgeschmücktem Bajonett aussergewöhnlicher Ausführung waren alle Kennzeichen des Grenadieroffiziers. **A2** Die hochrot und silberne Degenquaste, die Hutumrändung, der Stock, die Handschuh, die Pike und die Pistole bezeichneten alle den Sergeant. **A3** Typische Husarenuniform der Periode—bemerkenswert ist der seltsame, mit blauem Schnurbesatz umrändete Lederflicken am Ellenbogen.

B1 Der Hut war mit gelb oder weiss umrändet, je nach der Farbe der Regiments—knöpfe, die Quaste war in der Mitte geteilt mit Regimentsaufschlagfarbe über weiss. **B2** Die Unterschiedszeichen des Obergefreitenranges sind bemerkenswert: die Umrändung des Hutes, der Stock, das unterschiedliche Pikenmuster, die ungewöhnliche Disposition der Pistole, die sich auf einem gefederten Haken innerhalb einer Art von Beutel befand. **B3** Bei der Paradeuniform wurde die Jacke durch eine andere, mit zurückgeknöpften Aufschlägen ersetzt, wobei eine gestickte, lederfärbige Weste sichtbar wurde.

C1 Durch reiche Goldtressenzierde an Hut und Jacke wurde der Elitestand der Artillerie betont. Obergefreiter trugen nur eine Reihe Goldtresse auf den Ärmelaufschlägen. **C2** Einfache silberne Unrändung am Hut bezeichnen den Rang eines untergeordneten Offiziers. Auf Parade mit den Truppen hätte er zusätzlich ein *gorget* (Ringkragen) und Leibbinde getragen. **C3** Der oberste Tuchstreifen der Bärenfellmütze trägt ein weisses Kreuz auf einem Hintergrund der Regimentsaufschlagfarbe, weisse Leinen kämen dazu bei der Paradeuniform. Bemerkenswert ist der rote Tragriemen an der Flinte.

D Selbst die gemeinen Reiter dieses Eliteregiments hatten Goldumrändung an den Hüten. Jedes Regiment der schweren Reiterei hatte Goldtressenzierde eigenartiges Musters auf Waffenrock und Pferdeschmuck.

E Die schwarzen Spitzen seines Federbusches und der Stock, der vorne am rechten Bein vom Sattel hängt, gehören zu den Rangskennzeichen dieses Unteroffiziers. Vorne am Waffenrock sind zwei Reihen Knöpfe mit je acht Knöpfen.

F1 Die grüne Uniform mit schwarzen Aufschlägen wurden im Jahre 1810 eingeführt. **F2** Es ist zu merken, dass während die Ärmelaufschläge und der Vorderteil des Kragens aus schwarzem Stoffe mit rotem Schnurbesatz hergestellt sind, die Aufschläge des Waffenrockschosses hell-grün mit rotem Schnurbesatz sind. **F3** Typische Infanterieuniform c.1810 mit vielen französischen Eigenschaften.

G Offiziere und Soldaten dieser freiwilligen Einheiten waren öfters Bürger, die reich genug waren ihre eigene Uniforme und Waffen ziemlich verschwenderisch anzuschaffen und deshalb oft besonders gut angezogen waren.

H1 Dieser sehr gut angezogene *Landwehrmann* stellt wahrscheinlich das Ideale dar, dass selten tatsächlich erreicht wurde; in den frühen Monaten des Jahres 1813, wenigstens, waren viele dieser Truppen schäbig angezogen und schlecht ausgerüstet. **H2** Einen preussischen Ansehen wurde durch den bewährten *Litewka*-Rock mit Goldtreßstäbchen auf dem Kragen geliehen. Der Hauptteil der freiwilligen Regimente trugen entweder schwarz oder dunkelblau, sodass, während der Knappheiten dieser Periode, Zivilkleider leicht zu einer ungefähr richtiger Farbe umgefärbt werden könnten. **H3** Typische *Jäger*uniform der Periode, mit aufgeschlägtem Filzhut, grünem Waffenrock und des Försters feinhergestelltes Gewehr. Das Kreuzemblem auf dem Hute wurde sehr häufig von deutschen freiwilligen Einheiten getragen.

Notes sur les planches en couleur

A1 Le bonnet poilu agrémenté de cordons d'or pour la tenue de parade, les epaulettes, ainsi que la carabine avec sa bayonnette ornementée d'un motif insolite, étaient particuliers à l'uniforme d'officier des grenadiers. **A2** Le pommeau d'épée cramoisi et argent, la bordure du chapeau, la cane, les gants, la pique et le pistolet (voir B2) indiquaient le rang de sergeant. **A3** Uniforme typique des hussards de l'epoque—noter, en particulier, la pièce de cuir au coude, qui est bordée d'un filet bleu.

B1 Le chapeau était bordé de blanc et jaune, suivant la couleur des boutons du régiment; le pompon, divisé en deux, etait couleur du régiment sur fond blanc. **B2** Noter les distinctions marquant le rang de caporal: la bordure du chapeau, la cane, le différent motif de la pique, et la position spéciale du pistolet, retenu par un crochet à ressort à l'intérieur d'une espèce de sacoche. **B3** Pour la grande tenue, la redingote, d'un autre genre, était à revers maintenus par des boutons, révélant le gilet brodé de couleur chamois.

C1 La riche broderie de dentelle d'or au chapeau et à la redingote souligne l'importance de l'artillerie, élite de l'armée. Les caporaux n'avaient droit qu'à une seule rangée de dentelle au poignet. **C2** La simple bordure d'argent au chapeau indique le rang d'officier subalterne. Pour parader avec les troupes, un *gorget* et une ceinture en écharpe se portaient de surcroît. **C3** La partie culminante du bonnet poilu comporte une croix blanche sur un fond aux couleurs du régiment; des cordons blancs s'y ajoutent pour la parade. Noter la bandoulière rouge du mousquet.

D Les troupiers ordinaires de ce régiment d'élite avaient eux aussi une bordure dorée à leur chapeau. Les régiments de cavalerie lourde avaient chacun leur motif de dentelle, dont étaient ornés la tunique et le harnachement du cheval.

E Les indices de rang de ce sous-officier comprennent: la pointe de plume noire, et la cane, portée sur le devant de la jambe droite. La tunique est fermée sur le devant par deux rangées de boutons.

F1 Le port de l'uniforme vert à revers noirs date de 1810. **F2** Noter le noir à filet rouge des revers de poignets et de col, qui contrastent avec l'envers des pans de la redingote à queue, qui sont vert clair à filet rouge. **F3** Uniforme typique de l'infanterie de 1810, comportant de nombreuses caractéristiques françaises.

G Les officiers et les hommes de ces unités de volontaires étaient souvent bourgeois; leur affluence leur permettait de se procurer l'uniforme à leurs propres frais, ce qui explique souvent l'élégance de leur tenue.

H1 L'élégance raffinée de ce *Landwehrmann* représente un idéal rarement pratiqué; dans les premiers mois de 1813 du moins, nombreuses étaient les troupes qui manquaient de vêtements et d'équipement. **H2** La populaire redingote *Litewka* prête une apparence prussienne à l'uniforme, dont le col comporte des galons de dentelle. La plupart des unités de volontaires portaient l'uniforme noir ou bleu foncé, ce qui, en ces temps de pénurie, permettait de teindre assez facilement les vêtements civils. **H3** Uniforme *Jäger* typique de cette période, avec chapeau de feutre retroussé sur les côtés, tunique verte, et beau fusil de forestier. La croix au chapeau était un insigne couramment choisi par les unités de volontaires allemands.

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Avec annotations en français sur les planches en couleur.
Mit Aufzeichnungen auf Deutsch über den Farbtafeln.

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